

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

No. 1740.—VOL. LXII.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1873.

SIXPENCE.
EXTRA SUPPLEMENT } BY POST, 6½D.



"THE RETURN FROM MARKET."
PAINTED BY W. BOUGUEREAU.

lave recently occurred in the Prussian Cabinet may, perhaps, be regarded as the shuffling of the cards which precedes the final game, or as the requisite preparations of far-sighted statesmanship designed to issue in the merging of provincial into Imperial supremacy. As such, the news which may come for a while from Berlin must be looked upon as deeply interesting to the civilised States of both hemispheres.

The discussion going on between the diplomatists of France and Austria respecting the position taken up by the latter pending and during the Franco-German War is unquestionably interesting, but will not, we fancy, greatly disturb public equanimity either in Paris or in Vienna. We refer to it chiefly that we may have an opportunity of expressing the heartfelt satisfaction which we feel—and which we are confident that our readers share with us—in the prospect of international peace for A.D. 1873. There is no need to forget how uncertain, both in their character and their result, are those movements of great communities which involve within them the possibilities of war. But, speaking with that reserve with which we are bound to treat all things future, it does seem as though the profound tranquillity of the year just gone would be prolonged to the close of the year just set in. Indeed, diplomacy hardly busies itself now in politics. It is much more deeply concerned in adjusting the economical and commercial relations of European States. There is not upon the surface of affairs any discernible indication of an approaching breach of the general peace. Since the outbreak of the Crimean War the civilised nations of men have never had before them so profoundly pacific an outlook. There may be a sudden and unexpected change, it is true, as the calmest sea may be lashed into fury in the course of a few hours, and the sunniest sky be convulsed by tempests. But this is not common to human experience. It is cheering to know that not a phenomenon above the political horizon suggests a likelihood of war during the year. Our plans, commercial or otherwise, may to this extent, without any serious imprudence, leave that contingency out of account. We have only, therefore, to express our hope for the country and for the world that they may realise some of the best fruits resulting from "Peace on Earth," which is synonymous with wishing the nations all round "A Happy New Year."

THE COURT.

The Queen, with various members of the Royal family, continues at Osborne House.

On Thursday week her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Christian and Prince Christian Victor and Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein, drove through Newport and West Cowes. Princess Beatrice rode out. Prince Arthur and Prince Christian went shooting. Lady Susan Melville dined with the Queen.

On the following day her Majesty walked and drove in the grounds adjacent to Osborne. Princess Beatrice and Prince Arthur rode out. Prince Leopold and Prince Christian crossed from Osborne in her Majesty's yacht Alberta to Netley, and visited the Royal Victoria Hospital. The Rev. George Prothero and Mrs. Prothero dined with the Queen.

On Saturday last her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, drove to Ryde. Prince Arthur and Prince Christian passed the day shooting. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Howard Elphinstone, K.C.B., left Osborne.

On Sunday the Queen, Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Beatrice, Prince Arthur, and Prince Leopold attended Divine service at Whippingham church. The Rev. George Prothero officiated.

On Monday Prince Arthur left Osborne for Dover in order to resume his duties with his battalion. Prince Leopold accompanied his Royal Highness to Southampton, and then returned to Osborne. Rear-Admiral Sir Leopold M'Clintock dined with her Majesty.

On Tuesday Prince Christian went out shooting at Parkhurst.

On New-Year's Day the Queen's annual gifts were distributed to the poor of Windsor, Holy Trinity, and Clewer, at the riding-school of Windsor Castle. The number of the recipients was 812, and the total value of the presents was £500. The gifts consisted of clothing, coals, and meat.

Her Majesty's Royal bounty to the poor in the metropolis and its environs was distributed the previous week, at the Almoe Office, Scotland-yard. Upwards of one thousand persons were presented with sums either of five or thirteen shillings each.

The Marchioness of Ely has succeeded the Countess of Gainsborough as Lady in Waiting to her Majesty. The Countess of Gainsborough remained on a visit.

The Queen has appointed the Countess of Erroll to be one of her Majesty's ladies of the bedchamber in ordinary, in the room of the Countess of Gainsborough, resigned.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh went snipe-shooting, on Thursday week, in Wolferton and Babingley marshes. On the following day their Royal Highnesses passed the day, shooting, with Mr. Henry Villebois, on the Marham estate. The Duke of St. Albans arrived at Sandringham House on a visit to the Prince and Princess. On Sunday the Prince and Princess and the Duke of Edinburgh attended Divine service in Sandringham church. The Rev. C. F. Tarver, Rector of Stisted, Essex, and the Rev. W. Lake Onslow officiated. On Monday the Duke of Edinburgh left Sandringham. The Prince and Princess proceeded on a visit to the Earl of Leicester at Holkham Hall, where their Royal Highnesses have passed the week. The Prince has had excellent sport shooting. On Wednesday the Prince and Princess were present at the meet of the West Norfolk Hounds at Quarles Farm. A large field assembled. A fox was found at South Cerake which afforded a run of forty-five minutes, terminating in a kill at Houghton. The Prince visited Mr. Henry Lee Warner, at Walsingham Abbey. The usual New-Year's gifts have been distributed at Sandringham to the dependants and cottagers upon the Royal demesne.

The Duke of Edinburgh went to the Lyceum Theatre on Tuesday evening.

The Duchess of Cambridge entertained at dinner, on New-Year's Day, at her residence in St. James's Palace, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke and Duchess

of Teck, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, and the Countess of Dornberg and a select circle.

The Duke of Marlborough, who has been suffering from severe indisposition, is now progressing favourably.

Their Excellencies the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and Countess Spencer gave a dance at the Viceregal Lodge on New-Year's Eve, at which a large number were present.

The Earl and Countess of Lichfield have left town for Staffordshire.

The Earl of Dalhousie has left town for Cannes.

Viscountess Combermere has left St. Leonards-on-Sea for the Queen's Hotel, Norwood.

THE RETURN FROM MARKET.

In the picture by M. Bouguereau which we have engraved (with the aid of a photograph published by Messrs. Goupil) there is more of ordinary nature and less of idealism than is commonly found in this artist's idyllic rustic figures. The reader may be sure, however, that in the execution of the picture there are a delicacy and a finish which remove the representation far from coarseness or vulgarity. Yet one might, on a country road, without thinking her out of her sphere, meet just such a buxom lass as this, with her smiling mouth and dimpled cheeks, her roguish eyes, and pert *nez retroussé*, "tip-tilted," like the petal of a flower. And if we did meet such a lass on a country road in France, the pleasantness of the rencontre would in all probability be enhanced by our receiving a cheery "Bon jour, Monsieur! Bon voyage!" The fowls slung at her back, which she has acquired by purchase or barter in a neighbouring town, may not be as content as their new mistress with their transfer from market, or at least with the manner of it: that they are alive is evident by their retracted heads and half-closed wings. We cannot, however, suspect so good-natured a looking girl of conscious cruelty: how otherwise could she carry her fowls without a basket?

A NAIL-MAKING MACHINE.

The manufacture of horseshoe nails by machinery, instead of forging them by hand, is an important question of industrial economy. There are in Great Britain and Ireland about 2,600,000 horses, which represent a demand of about 998 millions of nails (or 5574 tons) per annum. More than 2000 tons are made for exportation; and, at an average of £80 per ton, the annual value of the trade is little less than half a million sterling.

Among the recent patentees of horse-nail machinery are Messrs. Huggett, father and son, the former of whom has been engaged in shoeing horses for many years. Mr. Huggett, jun., has brought into successful operation a very ingenious system of machinery. His inventions have been taken up by Messrs. Moser, iron merchants, of Southwark, who have erected a horse-nail factory in Wandsworth-road, with a plant sufficient to turn out five tons of completed horse-nails weekly, and with ample room for extension.

The chief feature of Mr. Huggett's patent is a pair of rollers by which he converts ordinary rod iron into a rod so shaped as to admit of being cut into nail blanks. The upper roller is a simple cylinder; the lower has a series of depressions on its circumference, separated by intervals. Each depression corresponds to two nail heads, each interval to two shanks; and the surface of the roller is so curved in the intervals as to render the middle of each its most prominent part. The actual roller surface is very narrow, corresponding to the slenderness of the rod; but is bounded on each side by a massive collar, which prevents the lateral spreading of the iron, and limits the alteration of its form to elongation. In order that the iron may yield freely, a very high degree of heat and a rapid motion are necessary. The rods, each 2 ft. in length, are heated in a Siemens' gas furnace, and are then suffered to run down a shoot to the rollers, which are turning at the rate of 500 revolutions a minute. The lateral collars are so contrived as to present the descending rod always in the right direction to the rollers, and it appears almost instantaneously on the other side, still glowing, somewhat contorted, and about trebled in length. It falls into a sort of trough, and is instantly seized with proper tongs by two boys, one at each end, is pulled straight, and laid aside to cool. The rollers are kept constantly lubricated by a stream of coal tar, which at once diminishes friction and also, by inflaming as each rod is passed through, shields the faces of the rollers by a fine carbonaceous deposit. A single furnace will heat from 5000 to 6000 rods per day of ten hours, a quantity equivalent to over 100,000 nail blanks; and the rollers, which are rather under 7 in. in diameter, could turn out rods at the rate of 900 ft. per minute.

The rod of nail blanks, as it leaves the rollers, may be described as a slender strip of iron, presenting a series of prominences on one side. Each prominence is about 1½ in. long, each interval between the prominences about 3½ in., the dimensions varying slightly with the size of the nail that is to be made. From each prominence the rod tapers slightly to the centre of each interval. It is nearly as flexible as lead, and so tough that the most rapid bending to and fro only breaks it with difficulty. In this state the rod is passed cold through another pair of rollers, so contrived that they compress only the prominences, and give them a nearly square outline in section. It is then taken to a cutting-machine and cut into lengths by descending blades. These blades are three in number—two lateral, at right angles to the rod, each of which cuts straight through the centre of a prominence, so as to divide it into two nail-heads; one central, set obliquely to the rod, so as to divide each interval into two bevelled points. The pieces, now called nail-blanks, are next put into a machine like a huge coffee-roaster, which is kept turning, in order that they may clean and polish each other by mutual friction. The cleaned nail-blanks still require to receive their perfect shape, and for this purpose they pass through two machines, the first of which gives a pyramidal figure to the heads, while the second finishes the shape. Lastly, the nails are annealed and coloured, and are then ready for the market.

With the exception of the men employed at the rolling mill and annealing furnaces, the work of the factory is mainly done by girls, most of whom were employed, until recent changes, in Woolwich Arsenal. Besides the saving thus effected in the cost of labour, there will be an important saving in material. In hand-made nails the waste of iron is not only very considerable, but is absolute, and cannot be recovered. In Mr. Huggett's process there is a primary waste of about twenty-four per cent of the raw material; but ten per cent of this is in odd lengths of metal, defective nails, and so forth, which can be again worked up and rendered useful. The irrecoverable waste does not exceed five per cent. As none but the very finest iron would lend itself to the rolling process, the quality of the machine-made nails is uniformly best. These nails may be bent to and fro without breakage, twisted or beaten out thin without cracking. The whole process is curious and interesting.

AN UNSENTIMENTAL "APPEAL."

If the British Public have not, during the season now all but over, exercised that which too many persons mistake for the "charity" incited by the highest authority, it has not been from any remissness in application on the part of the various agencies for relieving distress. Availing themselves of the exceeding good-nature of the journals, which are absolute losers by devoting column to column to "appeals," every institution, great and small, has obtained *gratis* advertisements this Christmas, and must have thereby gained large additions to its funds. We will exercise what is really meant by "charity," and believe that in most cases the aims of the benevolent have been applied without serious deduction and with serious discretion. Until some scheme for administering benefactions upon a system and in a way which shall not encourage mendicancy by promoting the formation of mendicant colonies in the districts into which Christmas liberality chiefly flows, we suppose that the present altogether clumsy and unsatisfactory method of acquiring funds must be tolerated. It is very bad, but it would be worse to let well-to-do people get out of the habit of remembering the poor. We must take it, and perhaps we are disposed to do so the more easily because we know that anything like system, where sentiment is concerned, is so repugnant to the average British mind that we are obliged to place the idea of a wholesome organisation at the end of a very long vista.

Much good is done even by the existing muddle; and in one sense we probably get a good deal more assistance out of well-meaning but not over-wise people than we should obtain by asking their aid for working a complete and well-considered system. We avail ourselves of wilfulness, and whim, and fussiness, and other small frailties of social life, by encouraging people to give exactly how and where they like, so that they will only give. The wise policy by which the Romish Church obtains the services of erratic minds has been lauded by Macaulay, not without reason. Where Protestant Establishments make enemies of the wilful, and alienate them, Rome finds something for them to do, and they become her missionaries. So with the charitable. If we try to prove to them that the worthless get at least as much of their money as the worthy, and that indiscriminate relief simply brings up a population in pauper habits, we should risk causing them to abstain altogether from almsgiving. Therefore it is better, until a most desirable change shall be wrought in public opinion, that the gold should be poured through a thousand channels, much to be wasted by the way, much to be entirely misused, but much to go for relief to the unhappy.

But there is no reason why some attempt at an organisation should not be made. We do not mean to suggest any grand scheme. When that comes it must emanate from some exceedingly popular statesman, affectionately regarded, without reference to politics, by the wealthier classes. That condition may not seem likely to be very soon established; and, as it is a *sine quâ non* for the purpose in view, we must defer that purpose until the hour and the man arrive. There is, however, one thing which might be done, and we venture to think that the question may be submitted to the benevolent without setting their pride on fire by the introduction of the idea that they are being interfered with or dictated to. We are far from denying their right, as the law stands, to fling money broadcast from their windows, or to select for their charity the professional mendicant who ought, as it is, to come under the income tax. Only we would humbly intimate that there is a new field for benevolence, if it could only find a way to enter that field. We would refer to proposals which have recently been made that something should be done in the way of organisation for the relief of those who have been respectably educated, who lead decent lives, and who would work from morning to night, for scanty pay, if they could get work, or had not lost situations. If we use the word "clerks" it is because that title is the most comprehensive that occurs to us, but it does not by any means include all whom we should like to see helped on system, and especially does not comprise women, whom we emphatically desire to include. But the word indicates a social classification.

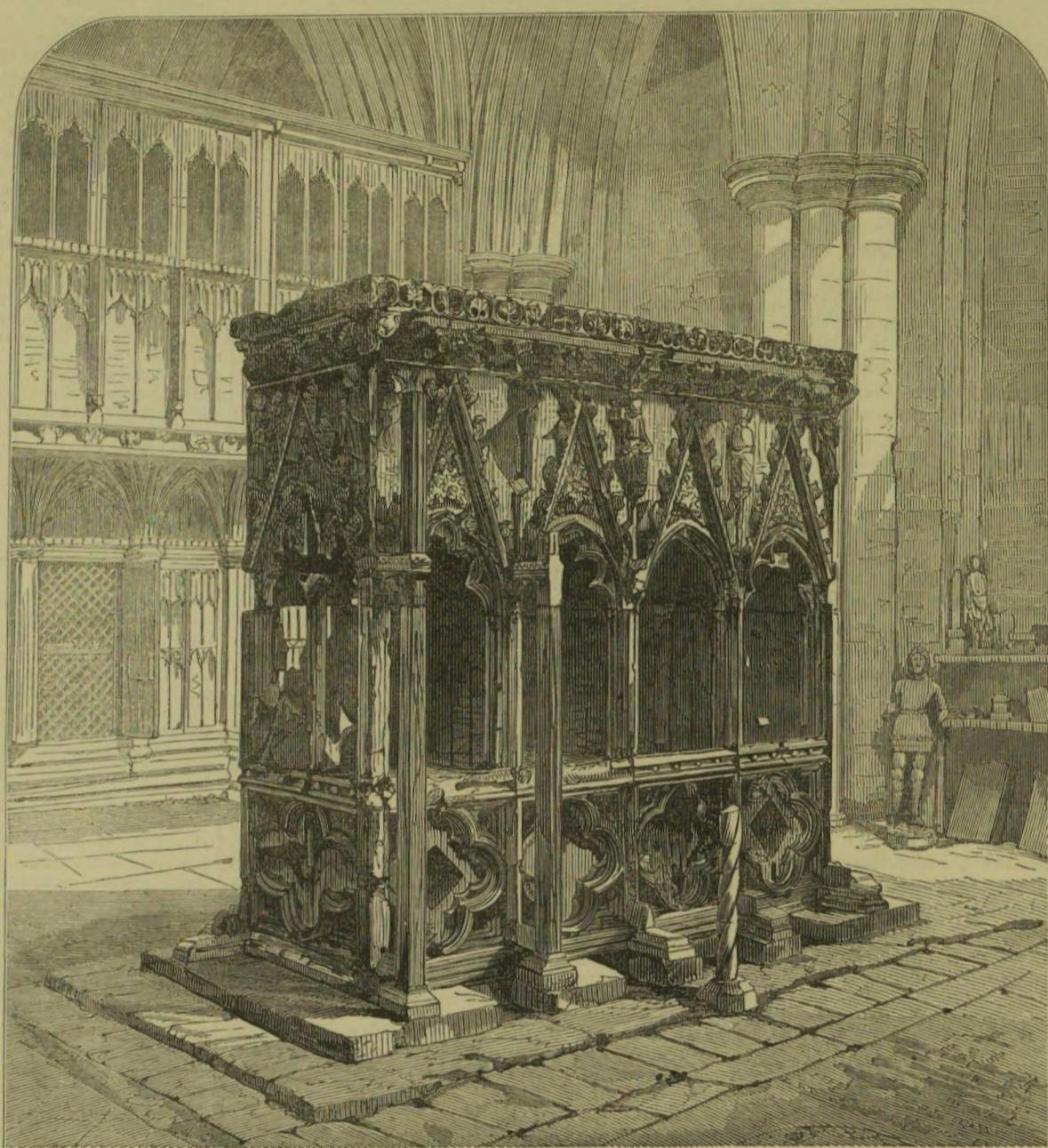
In a vast city like London there are thousands of deserving persons of education, ability more or less, industry and honesty, who cannot get work. Many of them have been gently bred, most of them have had home training, and have learned to love a home. Their highest ambition is to make and keep one. They have no idea of striking, they only "ash leave to toil." They do not clamour against severe hours of labour, they are only too glad to eke out their incomes by work at extra hours. Many—too many of them—have married, without sufficient assurance that they should be able to discharge the responsibilities of married life. This un-wisdom we are not defending, but it is punished quite harshly enough by the privations and the penury which it brings, and, though it is folly, it is akin to something which is the reverse of folly—the love of domestic life. Considering what drunkenness, what improvidence, what selfishness we forgive in the artisan class, we may extend a little indulgence to the clerk who has forgotten that "service is no inheritance," and has presumed to have a family around him and not a month's certain income before him. But for the immorality of the suggestion, we should say that his error in this regard should endear him to the sentimental. But there is a healthier and a truer way of looking at the question, and this will occur to all who can think.

Now if, in addition to sending money to anybody who begs for it—whether for building a new wing to a missionary college, or giving a new-year's-eve supper to everybody in Shoreditch who squints, or any other arbitrary selection of objects of charity—the kindly-hearted would consider the needs of a class divided from their own only by poverty, some admirable work might be done. Those whom we would assist should be only those who hunger and thirst to assist themselves. Their cases should be narrowly, but not offensively examined. The work should be that of the Visitor, not the officer of the Mendicancy Society—excellent though the work of the latter be. The assistance should be given secretly, as some of our best artistic and literary societies help the troubled, and it should be in most cases understood to be temporary only. By means of an organisation to relieve the class we speak of, hundreds of homes might be preserved, humiliation might be spared, and honest and worthy persons might be sustained for renewed conflict with life. They might succeed in the future, and they would not have the bitterness of recalling a period when their children could not be fed without help from the pawnbroker—and of the crueler period after his aid had failed, for the best reason. An association to carry out a system of this kind would do more good than a hundred societies for helping those for whom the law has provided, and who have no reluctance to accept that aid. We make the suggestion, for amid all the "appeals" which are thrust at us in the Christmas season, we can see none in favour of those who suffer undeservedly, and in silence.

Alderman James William Mackey was on Wednesday inaugurated Lord Mayor of Dublin, with the usual ceremony.

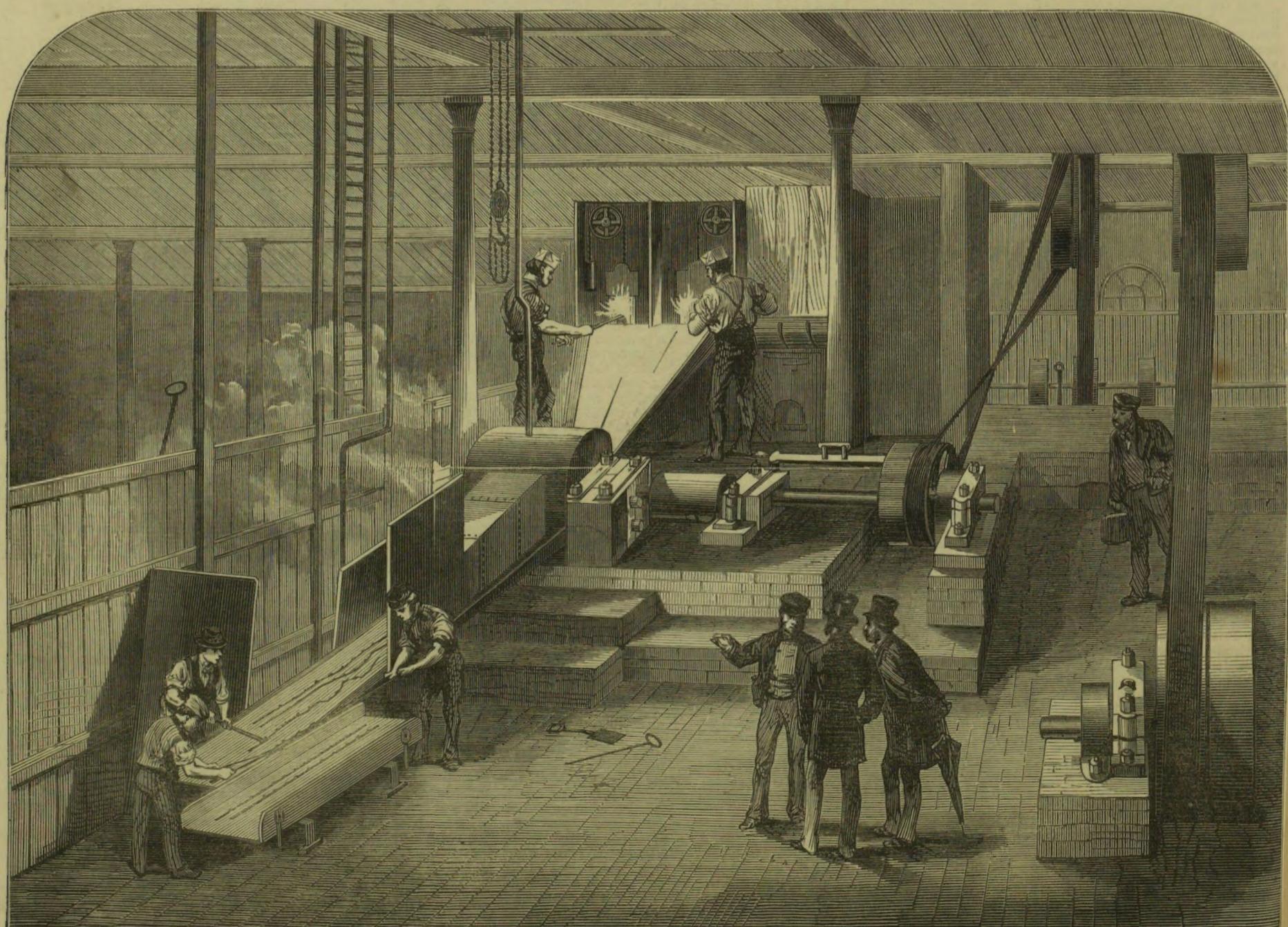
THE SHRINE OF
ST. ALBAN.

The ancient town of St. Albans, twenty miles north-west of London, was called Verulam under the Romans, from its little river, the Ver; but took its present name from the earliest Christian martyr in Britain. This was Albanus, whose friendly roof sheltered one of the ministers of our holy faith in days of persecution, and who bravely died for this good cause after the escape of the proscribed fugitive, Amphibalus. It appears that Albanus was put to death at Redburn, and was buried at Holm-hurst, where the Emperor Constantine, not many years afterwards, built a church over his tomb. About the end of the eighth century, by the pious care of Offa, King of Mercia, the body of this saint was removed to Verulam, where he had dwelt in his lifetime; and the minster dedicated to his memory was erected, with a convent of one hundred Benedictine monks. It is the oldest English foundation of that kind. The Norman Abbey Church was begun in 1077, by Abbot Paul, of Caen, and was completed in 1115, when it was consecrated by the Bishop of Lincoln and four other Bishops, in the presence of King Henry I. and Queen Maud. It had three noble towers, but the central tower alone remains. The plan comprised a nave of thirteen bays, with aisles; a choir, with aisles, and a transept; besides the Lady Chapel, presbytery, and ambulatory, to the east, and a vestibule. Some portions of this Norman building are left, but the church was re-

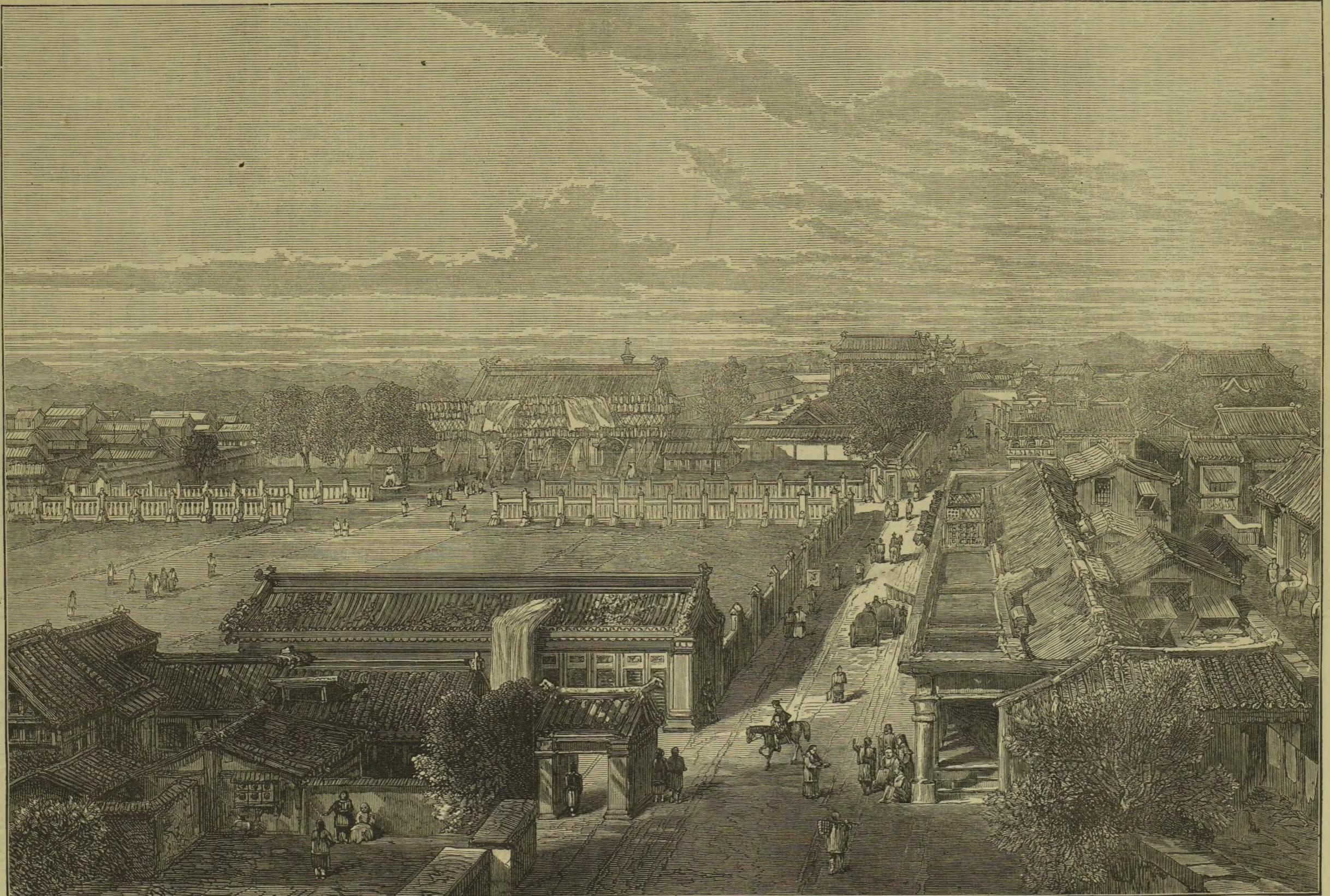


SHRINE IN ST. ALBAN'S ABBEY, RECENTLY DISCOVERED.

constructed, at different times, in the Early English and Decorated styles of Gothic architecture. Externally the Norman turrets and parapet were superseded by an octagon, with lofty, tapering pinnacles, which in the fifteenth century gave place to a low spire. The interior, especially the perspective of arches along the nave, has a truly majestic effect. In the course of recent works, undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining the original form of the buildings, with a view to clearing away modern and improper additions, fragments of the shrine of St. Alban were discovered, built up in an arch between the south aisle and the Lady Chapel. These fragments, which are most delicately wrought, were extremely minute, and numbered several thousand. They were, however, sufficient, when put together, to show the design of the whole. We give an Illustration, from the photograph by Mr. F. Downer, of Watford, of the shrine as reconstructed. In form it bears a general resemblance to the Confessor's shrine at Westminster, and, like it, has stood on a low marble step, which is deeply worn by the knees of the devout. It is about 9 ft. long and 4 ft. broad, each side having four niches, and each end two narrow ones, comprised under a single arch. These niches are not, as at Westminster, open to the ground, but closed to the height of 2 ft. 3 in. by elaborately traceried panels; above these the niches rise to a height of about 3 ft., and are surmounted by gables, the whole being finished with a remark-



NEW ROLLING MACHINE FOR MAKING HORSE-SHOE NAILS.



THE CHINESE IMPERIAL MARRIAGE: THE IMPERIAL PALACE, PEKIN.

ably good carved cornice. The total height is about 8 ft. Opposite the divisions between the niches there are detached buttresses, connected with the main erection by bows at the springing of the arches and at the cornice. In the tympanum at one end is represented the decapitation of St. Alban, and in that at the other the scourging of Amphibalus; the smaller tympana at the sides are filled with foliage. All the corner spandrels have censing angels, the intermediate ones seated figures; amongst which is a king holding a model of a church, probably intended to represent Offa, the founder of the abbey. The work is of about the middle of the fourteenth century, and is most excellent of its kind. The material is mostly Purbeck marble, but the graining inside the niches is of clunch. This part has been painted, the tracery being gold upon alternate red and blue grounds, and it is noticeable that in some places it has been painted to resemble the Purbeck. Three twisted pillars have stood detached on each side of the shrine. They are very un-English in form, and have possibly been influenced by the Italian work at Westminster. They may have carried candlesticks or images. The shrine has been found broken into literally thousands of pieces, but they have been carefully fitted together, and it now forms a valuable addition to our stock of English church antiquities, and will repay a visit.

THE CHINESE IMPERIAL WEDDING.

Our Special Artist at Pekin, Mr. William Simpson, whose sketches of the grand ceremonial processions at the marriage of the young Emperor of China, on Oct. 16, have supplied illustrations of a novel and interesting character, engraved for the last two numbers of this journal, now furnishes a view of the Imperial Palace at Pekin. This view is taken from the top of the Chien-Mun, or Southern Gate of the Tartar city. The Imperial Palace, or, rather, some of the principal buildings of it, stand high above the level of the trees and roofs of the city. One characteristic feature of the palace buildings is the yellow roofs. Yellow, being the Imperial colour, is only used by the Emperor. The palace may be described as a city in itself. Pekin forms a square, the outer parts of which form the Tartar city. The Imperial city is in its centre, and the palace is in the centre, again, of this Imperial city. Each precinct, or city, is separated from the others by walls. All temples and official residences in China have their principal entrance to the south, and this rule is observed in the Imperial Palace. The principal building seen in the illustration is the Ta-Ching-Mun, or South Gate. The Chinese name may be interpreted "Front Gate," "Gate of the Dynasty," "Bright," or "Refulgent." It owes these titles to the custom of reserving this gate for the Emperor to pass out or in. The palace is a succession of gates, leading to different halls; both gates and halls bear very Celestial and high-sounding titles. The Ta-Ching-Mun, an appellation of this gate which has so many names, is also rendered the "Great Pure Gate." The next building shown in our view is the Tien-Ngan-Mun, or "Gate of Heavenly Peace." The next to that is the Tuan-Mun, or "Gate of Order;" then we come to the Wu-Mun, or "Gate of the Midday Sun;" and beyond this we arrive at the T'ai-Ho-Mun, or "Gate of Great Felicity." This last gate leads to the T'ai-Ho-Tien, or "Hall of Great Felicity," and to the Pao-Ho-Tien, or "Hall of Secure Felicity." After this another gate, called the Chien-Ching-Mun, or "Gate of Steadfast Purity," leading to the Chien-Ching-Kung, or "Palace of Steadfast Purity;" on each side of this hall are the apartments in which the Emperor usually resides. The Ta-Ching-Mun, however, is the gate by which the youthful bride, on the night of her marriage, had to enter. It was therefore decorated, in front, in the same way as the entrance to the bride's palace. The canopy was supported by red poles with yellow dragons, and yellow pedestals, with the symbol of happiness. In front were the two usual lions and griffins, with a stone railing, which incloses a large space. This "Gate of the Dynasty" is a triple one, and leads into a long wide square or passage, at the end of which is another gate, leading into the actual buildings of the palace. To the north of the palace is an artificial hill, called the "Hill of Coal," surrounded by a pagoda; and in the distance may be seen the hills on which the Great Wall of China is built. The decorations in silk on the Ta-Ching-Mun were similar to those used at all Chinese marriages, but they were, of course, much more splendid.

No foreigner was permitted to witness the actual marriage ceremony, in the secluded interior of the Imperial palace; but our Artist gained some information respecting it, which is given in the following extracts from a letter written by him:—

"When the bride had reached her destination in the recesses of the palace the Empresses of East and West came to receive her at the door of the Yellow Chair, in which she had been carried. They placed Sycee gold and silver—that is, uncoined pieces of these metals—in each hand, and, crossing her arms upon her breast, she thus supported a vase containing wheat, maize, rice, emeralds, sapphires, rubies, and other articles to symbolise all that the earth produces. She then stepped from the chair upon a small golden saddle, and thus entered the dwelling of her future husband. It was talked over, the other evening, as to whether this ceremony with the saddle was a Mongolian or Manchu custom; but the conclusion seemed to be that it was neither, and that it most probably has come down from the time when the horse was the greatest of all sacrifices, and when everything connected with that animal had signification. There is an old custom, still practised by some of the Circassian tribes, in which the bridegroom goes through a performance of stealing his bride out of her father's house, or fighting for her with her relatives or clan; but the end is that he carries her off, and takes her home sitting on the saddle before him. This suggests that, as the Emperor of China could not, in keeping with his dignity, come out and have a row in the streets of Pekin for his wife, the saddle at the door is to indicate this old ceremony—a ceremony which has a suspicious flavour in it of the general freebooting tendencies of the old Scythian races.

"It is reported that the Emperor was asleep when the bride arrived, and that he had to be wakened, and said some necessary prayers in rather a hurried way. The Emperor of China gets up very early in the morning, for he has an audience at five a.m. Under such circumstances, an hour after midnight is rather late to have to sit up, and he may be excused if found napping. The ceremony of arranging the bride's hair in the manner it is worn by married women would take place the next day. This consists in removing the hair on the temples so as to make the brow have very sharp corners on the top. The hair is also plaited in a particular manner, and made to project out in a peculiar way by means of silver, or in the case of an Empress it would be golden, skewers. On the third day after the marriage they would both appear in very gorgeous costume. The dresses worn on this occasion were made in Pekin, and are covered with pearls and all kinds of precious stones, and cost, I am told, £180,000 each."

The Admiralty have decided that all boys for the Royal Navy who have been brought up in training-ships are to be rated ordinary seamen at the age of eighteen.

The Extra Supplement.

THE NATIVES OF BORNEO.

The figures of various natives of Borneo, which M. Regamey has grouped together in his drawing for the large Engraving to form our second Supplement of this week, are all copied from a set of photographs by August Sachtleber, a German photographic artist at Singapore, who lately accompanied the English Rajah of Sarawak, in the steam-boat Heartsease, up the large river which traverses the interior of Borneo. In the foreground is a Dyak warrior, of the tribe dwelling on the Bantang Lupar river, in the territory of Sarawak. He is in full war costume. His shield, made of a soft but very tough wood, cannot easily be pierced by a spear thrown against it. The spear which he holds in his hand is also a blow-pipe. With this he shoots the arrows carried in a bamboo quiver at his left side. Those arrows are poisoned with the juice of the upas-tree, mixed with juices of other herbs found in the jungle. Their venom will cause death a few minutes after the person is wounded. To the left, half-way back, are a couple of other warriors, belonging to the Kamida tribe, which inhabits the banks of the Rajang river. The foremost of these men is a great chief. They wear swords hanging at their left sides; and these swords are curiously made. The blade is convex on one side and concave on the other, so that it will cut only in one way. Some of the warriors use the sword with their left hand, instead of their right. Their shields are adorned, as we see, with tufts of human hair; and we observe that the house, in the background, is decorated with a ghastly festoon of human heads. Turning to the right-hand side of the central figure, we perceive three young women seated on the ground, with a box and a basket before them, talking quietly to each other. They are differently dressed; the one in the middle is a Dyak girl, attired in a gala costume for a ceremonial feast, such as they get up on the solemn day when they present food to the ghosts and demons haunting their household, or at the celebration of a victory which has brought in many enemies' heads. She has bracelets of polished shell, and heavy brass ring on her legs, bought from the Chinese traders. Her neighbour wears a jacket and petticoat of cotton, their own spinning and weaving, dyed of some gaudy colour. At the other side of her is a Shannowit girl, from beyond the Rajang, whose ears are weighed down by enormous earrings, of brass, copper, or lead, each a pound and three quarters, or even more than two pounds. The holes pierced for these rings are so much enlarged, in some cases, that it is said the woman can put her hand through them. But these Dyak females are hard-working servants to their haughty lords. They cultivate the soil, pound the rice, fetch the water, and cook the meal; they paddle their boats up the river to pick the betel-nut and the sirih-leaf, which they sell to the Malays for a chewing-mixture. They have pretty arts and devices for the ornamentation of clothing, of weapons, and of household furniture. Such are the amenities of social life among the savages of Borneo, those fierce Sarebas and Sakaran people, whose acquaintance we made through Rajah Brooke, some five-and-twenty years ago.

LIFE-BOAT WORK IN 1872.

The unusually stormy weather of the last two months of the year which has just closed has directed renewed attention to the life-boat work. The long list of work done during the year on the coasts of the British isles by the boats of the National Life-Boat Institution shows a total of 548 lives rescued and twenty-five ships saved from destruction. During the same period the Life-Boat Institution granted rewards for saving 170 lives by fishing and other boats, making a grand total of 718 lives saved last year mainly through its instrumentality. Altogether, the institution has contributed, from its formation, to the saving of 21,464 shipwrecked persons; for which services £23 gold and silver medals and £39,100 in money have been given as rewards. When we remember that nearly every life saved by life-boats has been rescued under perilous circumstances, the crews often incurring much risk and exposure throughout stormy days and nights, it is gratifying to know that not a single life has been lost from the life-boats of the institution during the past four years, in which period they have been manned on all occasions, including quarterly exercise, by upwards of 40,000 persons. The committee, therefore, appeal to the public with renewed assurance for pecuniary support to enable them to maintain in a state of thorough efficiency the institution's great fleet of 233 life-boats; and when it is remembered that the institution is entirely dependent on voluntary support, in the way of legacies, donations, and annual subscriptions, we feel assured that the society will not have to appeal in vain to a British public for help to carry on its great and merciful work.

The Lord Mayor distributed the prizes won by the 7th Surrey (Southwark) Volunteers on Saturday last, at the Cannon-street Terminus Hotel; on Monday his Lordship distributed the prizes won during the shooting contests of the past season by the 37th Middlesex (Bloomsbury), at the Freemasons' Tavern; and the Lord Mayor will distribute the prizes of the 3rd London to-day (Saturday), at the Guildhall. Mrs. Gladstone distributed the prizes on Tuesday evening to the Haverden Volunteers.

A conference of ironmasters employing about 60,000 workmen was held, on Wednesday, at Cardiff—Mr. Fothergill, M.P., in the chair. A general opinion was expressed that the state of trade in the district demanded the ten-per-cent reduction in wages of which notice had been given. The masters declined to accept arbitration, but offered to submit their books to the inspection of the workmen.—At an immense meeting of ironworkers held at Wednesbury, on Monday, the principle was laid down that the wages of the men for the next six months ought to be based upon the selling price of iron during the past six months.

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FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our Correspondent in Paris.)

Thursday, Jan. 2, 1873.

Yesterday being the Jour de l'An, M. Thiers, in accordance with his previously expressed intention, left the capital for Versailles by an early train, and, after receiving the various civil, military, diplomatic, and religious dignitaries at his official residence, returned to the Elysée in the evening. In Paris, as the day, though cold, was remarkably fine, the boulevards, lined, as usual, with rows of barques, exhibiting toys and cheap fancy articles for sale, were crowded with people; and the shopkeepers, both great and small, seem to have done a thriving trade. The *joujou de circonstance* is the "Gambetta crapaud," a cardboard batracius, supposed to imitate the ex-Dictator's voice when it has grown husky with declaiming; while the *bonbons* of the year are the *préféré* and the *je ne sais quoi*, both better known to givers of *éternelles* under the old name of Sstrandin.

This week we have had no very romantic attempt at suicide to absorb the public attention, which has consequently had to occupy itself with such commonplace matters as the subscription for the sufferers by the inundations in the neighbourhood of Paris, originated by the *Figaro*, which has already realised over twelve thousand pounds; the accident that wellnigh befell the President of the Republic after dining with Lord Lyons, the other evening; and, lastly, the Duc de Gramont's revelations respecting the attitude of Austria at the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war.

M. Thiers, it seems, declared before the Commission of the 4th of September that he had been told both by Counts Beust and Andrassy that they had formally warned the fallen Imperial Government of its being utterly impossible for Austria to follow France into a war against Prussia. To this the Duc de Gramont, formerly Ambassador of France at Vienna, and the last of Napoleon III.'s Ministers of Foreign Affairs, has retorted by publishing an extract from a private despatch from the Cabinet of Vienna, in which it is remarked that "Austria considers the cause of France as her own, and will contribute, as far as possible, to the success of her arms," and by announcing his intention to make public other important official documents, including a despatch addressed by M. de Beust to M. de Metternich, of which the latter left the Duke a copy, a letter from M. de Beust confirming the above, and the draught of a treaty of alliance which was to have been signed on the very day when news was received of the first French defeat. No little sensation has been caused by these and other announcements, and the leading organs of the Parisian press, with the exception, however, of the *Journal des Débats*, seem inclined to believe the truth of the Duc de Gramont's story. On the other hand, according to an anecdote in circulation, the Duke, shortly after his appointment as Minister for Foreign Affairs, on being asked by M. Thiers if it were likely that Austria would ally itself with France in the event of a war with Prussia, replied, "Certainly not. Austria herself requires peace in order to repair her own losses." The Cabinet of Vienna itself appears to have been somewhat startled by the affirmations of M. de Gramont, and it is now announced that Count Beust will be in Paris in about a fortnight's time to confer with M. Thiers concerning them.

On Saturday the President of the Republic received the members of the first Sub-Commission of Thirty at the Elysée; but the interview failed to bring about an understanding. It would appear that in the Commission itself the members cannot agree upon a single one of the many points under discussion. The Government, however, still steadily declines to originate any constitutional project until the Commission has put forward one of its own, which, with the present dissensions among its members, is not likely to be the case yet awhile.

On Thursday the Japanese Embassy was received with considerable ceremony by the President of the Republic, at the Elysée; and on Saturday M. Thiers dined at the British Embassy, in company with several of the Ministers, the Governor of Paris, the Préfet of the Seine, and other guests. On his way to his carriage, after the dinner, he slipped on the stone steps and fell on his side, slightly bruising his right arm. There being a dearth of important political news, the different journals have ever since been occupying themselves with mutually contradicting each other concerning the amount of injury sustained by M. Thiers, those of a sensational turn appearing with articles in large type, setting forth that the President was most grievously hurt, and likely to keep his bed for some time. Happily, however, this is not the case, for M. Thiers was so little affected by his fall as to be present at a soirée at the Elysée a few minutes afterwards; and, although feeling a slight stiffness in the part affected, rose at his usual early hour on the following morning. On Sunday he entertained the Corps Diplomatique at dinner at the Elysée, and the next day had upwards of thirty of the most distinguished Generals of the French army to dine with him. Both dinners were followed, one hears, by brilliantly-attended receptions.

The Government has announced the complete payment of the third milliard of the German war indemnity. The fourth will be paid in monthly instalments of 200 millions, so that negotiations respecting the financial guarantees for the payment of the last milliard will certainly commence by next May.

SPAIN.

Senor Zorrilla was present, on Monday evening, at a large meeting of the Progressist party, and made what the telegram from Madrid describes as a great speech. The principal point in it appears to have been his repudiation of foreign intervention in the affairs of the Spanish colonies, especially as regards the question of the abolition of slavery.

ITALY.

The King has arrived at Rome in excellent health. On Tuesday his Majesty, after granting audiences of credence to the new Ministers of Belgium and Holland, received the whole diplomatic body, who offered New-Years' congratulations—subsequently going to pay them at the residences of the Royal Princes. The King received deputations on Wednesday from Parliament and the high functionaries.

Prince Humbert has been thrown out of his carriage and slightly bruised. The Prince has made his appearance as an author in a book entitled "The Grand Manœuvres of the Year 1872."

The Pope received on Sunday several Roman nobles, who presented him with an address. His Holiness, in reply, praised the aristocracy which had remained faithful. He said Jesus loves the aristocracy, and He himself wished to have a noble master. The aristocracy and the clergy were the two supports of the Throne. The Pope added—"Thrones which are sustained by the arm of the people and by those who live in unbelief are very feeble. If the most just thrones have not been able to resist the shock of revolution, how can those thrones resist which are founded on injustice, robbery, and calumny?" His Holiness concluded by quoting several cases from the Holy Scriptures, and calling upon his hearers to trust in God. The Pope received on Monday morning the members of his Tribunals and the College of Prelates. Replying to their address,

His Holiness reminded them of the history of Tobias, who consoled and gave aid to all. He (the Pope) had also done his best to aid others. On Tuesday the Pope received several Italian and foreign families; and on Wednesday his Holiness received the Palatine Guards.

GERMANY.

According to information from Berlin, General Count von Roon, who has been appointed Minister President, relinquishes the Portfolio of War, being succeeded in that post by General von Kameke. It is said that Count von Roon has been appointed a Field Marshal.

RUSSIA.

A bulletin issued at noon on Wednesday announces that the fever of the Czarewitch continues to decrease, and that the general condition of his Imperial Highness is satisfactory.

AMERICA.

General Dix has been inaugurated Governor of New York. A telegram announces that the Fifth Avenue Theatre, New York, has been burnt. On Christmas Day the floor of a church at Williamsport gave way, and fourteen persons were seriously injured.

INDIA.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs that Lord Northbrook will probably abolish the income tax, together with the export duty on wheat. In order to meet the deficiency in the revenue a reduction and reorganisation of the armies of Bombay and Madras are contemplated. Sir Richard Temple will probably remain at his post for another year. If the Estimates will allow it, the Viceroy will modify the Burmah capitation tax. The revised Criminal Procedure Act is postponed for three months.

We learn from the *Bombay* papers that Lord Northbrook, on his journey eastward, has everywhere been received with much enthusiasm. The *Bombay Gazette* says that the assemblages of native chiefs and the military and festal displays have exceeded in brilliancy anything known to the present generation of Central India. The *Friend of India* thinks that it would be difficult to over-estimate the excellent political effect produced throughout Western and Central India by his Excellency's tour. The *Times of India* says that the happy fortune appears to be granted to Lord Northbrook of crowning that political edifice, the foundations of which were relaid broad and deep by Lords Canning and Stanley, and the construction of which was being fitly carried forward by Lord Mayo.

Very rich gold-mines have been discovered at Lebu, in the south of Chili.

During one of the recent gales the principal lighthouse on the island of Anticosta was entirely destroyed, and Bartey the keeper, with his wife and six children, perished.

The King of the Netherlands has awarded a silver medal and a certificate of honour to Mr. Walter Haylett, master of the fishing-sloop Eclipse, of Great Yarmouth, for rescuing the crew of the Netherlands schooner Blyham, which foundered in the North Sea on Oct. 26 last.

The West India and Pacific mail brings intelligence of an eruption of the volcano of Santa Anna, in the north of Salvador, and a violent earthquake at the unfortunate city of Arequipa, in Peru. An earthquake took place, on Nov. 14, at Valparaiso, but no serious damage resulted therefrom.

M. Capefigue, the French historian, died recently, at Paris, at the age of seventy-four; and the death is also announced from Paris of Dr. Félix Archimède Pouchet, a naturalist, in his seventy-third year. The *Indépendance Belge* announces the death at Copenhagen of the Professor of Philosophy in the University there, M. Frédéric Sibbern, who had filled the chair of Philosophy since 1813. Mr. George Peabody Putnam, the well-known American publisher, died suddenly at his place of business on Dec. 20.

The population of India has been commonly stated at 200,000,000; but we learn from the *Homeward Mail* that the Census of 1872 gives the vast aggregate of 241,000,000; or about one fourth of the entire population of the globe. Of this enormous total, 186,500,000 are under the direct sway of England—that is to say, they pay revenue to the supreme Government; while the remaining 54,000,000 are either virtually under British administration, as in Mysore and Berar, or come more or less directly under our influence.

The following is the list of vessels and number of emigrants dispatched by the Agent-General for New Zealand during the quarter ending December, 1872:—The Zealandia, from London, with 319 emigrants, for Otago; the Crusader, from London, with 198, for Canterbury; the Charlotte Gladstone, from London, with 348, for Otago; the Warwick, from London, with 163, for Auckland; the Forfarshire, from London, with 408, for Wellington; the Himalaya, from London, with 115, for Canterbury; the Durham, from London, with 73, for Auckland; the Euterpe, from London, with 92, for Otago; the Lutterworth, from London, with 103, for Otago: total, nine ships, carrying 1819 souls. Altogether, since the arrival of the Agent-General in London, 6899 emigrants have been sent out to New Zealand, in thirty-nine ships.

From the accounts which reach us of the wreck of the mail-steamer Germany at the mouth of the Gironde, it appears that immediately after the ship struck the sea dashed over her and carried away all her boats except one. The crew and passengers were thus obliged to take to the rigging. According to the *Courrier de la Rochelle*, the sufferings they underwent during the night were of the most terrible description. At half-past eight o'clock the mainmast fell. Half an hour afterwards the mizzenmast also fell, carrying with it seven persons, who had taken refuge in the rigging. The waves continued to dash over the ship, and one of them washed away a woman and her four children. An infant seven months old died in its mother's arms during the night. It was not until day broke that assistance came. Great praise is said to be due to the captain of the fishing-vessel who rescued so many of the crew and passengers, and to the authorities at La Rochelle for their kindness and attention to the sufferers.

Two despatches are published bearing on our anti-slave trade mission to the East Coast of Africa. At Cairo the *Daily Telegraph* informant has found authoritative grounds for contradicting the recent report of a new Egyptian expedition to Zanzibar, the truth being that an exploring expedition of about a hundred men in charge of stores and provisions should push forward in the track of Sir Samuel Baker, to revivify his forces, reinforce him at need, and send back to the Khedive's Government authentic intelligence as to his actual position and his prospects of ultimate success. From Zanzibar the same paper learns, under date of the 18th ult., that Captain Wilson, of the United States war-ship Yantic, has had an interview with the Sultan of Zanzibar, in which that potentate has shifted the blame of the slave trade from his own shoulders to those of the Arabs and the tribes who come from the Persian Gulf, and has promised that he "will make strong efforts in future to stop and prevent the kidnapping of slaves."

From January to August of last year 12,000 coolies were imported into Peru.

Mr. Bernard C. Molloy, of the Middle Temple, has, it is said, been appointed private chamberlain to the Pope.

Sir Bartle Frere and the other members of the Zanzibar Mission arrived at Aden, on Tuesday morning, all well.

Sir E. Thornton, the British Minister at Washington, has addressed to Lord Granville a despatch on the subject of the disease among horses in America. The disease seems to have first appeared at Toronto about Sept. 30. It entered the United States soon afterwards, and so rapidly spread that in less than two months it had reached as far south as Galveston, in Texas. In New York, within ten days after it was first noticed, 40,000 horses were attacked. The disease is described as a sort of catarrhal influenza or distemper, accompanied by a good deal of fever. Animals in good or bad condition, working or idle, were alike seized by it. Those in close stables suffered most. Sir E. Thornton himself had five horses attacked, and he gives an account of the mode of treatment he successfully adopted, which was of a mild kind. In some cases where violent remedies were adopted the horses appeared to recover more quickly, but seemed to contract other ailments, such as rheumatism. The disease, after its first appearance in a town, reached its height in from eight to twelve days. It is believed that not a single horse in Washington escaped its attacks.

The afternoon reception which the Princess Nazlié Khalil held at the mansion of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Constantinople, where she has now, on the final conclusion of all the formalities of her marriage with H.E. Khalil Pacha, taken up her abode, was exciting much interest when the last mail left. It was brilliantly attended by the élite both of Stamboul and Pera society. Among those who went to offer their congratulations to the bride, says the *Levant Herald*, were Princess Halim, Madame Kiazim Bey, Lady and Miss Elliot, Madame Ignatiew, Lady Francis, Mrs. Bernal Osborne and Miss Grace Osborne, and Viscontessé de Courtivron. In a superb toilette of pink velvet, heavily embroidered with gold, a magnificent coronet of brilliants surmounting a wreath of orange-blossoms placed low upon her brow, the Princess received her guests in a small apartment hung with green satin, overlooking the Bosphorus and adjoining her principal saloon. Her Highness appeared slightly paler than usual, but bore up against the fatigue and agitation of the day with wonderful self-possession, receiving her guests with that queenlike dignity and easy grace which excited general admiration on the occasion of her Highness's betrothal. So great was the interest felt in the ceremony, and so keen the curiosity to see in her bridal attire a lady whose birth, beauty, education, and position placed her at the head of Turkish female society, that it was difficult to keep back the crowds of Turkish women who thronged the entrance, and occasionally succeeded in penetrating into the Princess's apartment. Never previously has any Turkish marriage awakened a tithe of the interest which has been felt in that of the Khalil Pacha with the Egyptian Princess.

THE LATE FLOODS.

The valley of the Thames, from Staines to above Windsor, and up to Maidenhead, presented an extraordinary spectacle during the floods, which covered miles of the low lands on each bank of the river in the week before Christmas. The lower parts of the town at Windsor and Eton were inundated to a depth of several feet in some places, so that the inhabitants of Cambridge-terrace and Oxford-road were obliged to use punts to and from their dwellings. When Divine worship was performed on the Sunday at the parish church of Bray, half a dozen boats were constantly employed to bring the congregation over the adjacent water; and the country people coming to market on other days reached Maidenhead by a similar conveyance. The view from the Round Tower of Windsor Castle, which is shown in our Illustration, was exceedingly strange. The Eton College playing-fields, the Brocas, and the neighbouring meadows, the ground about the Provost's Fishing Lodge at Black Pots, and Romney Isle, below the bridge, with a vast extent of land at Chalvey, Eton Wick, and Dorney, were submerged. The town and college were almost surrounded with water, and converted into a peninsula. In the opposite direction the floods covered nearly all the Home Park to the north and east of the castle, and spread over the meadows of Datchet, Old Windsor, Magna Charta Island, and Runnymede, to Staines Moor. The flood here was not, indeed, so high by 2 ft. as that of 1852, which was the highest on record; and much relief was afforded by the newly-constructed weirs and tumbling bays near Windsor, as appears from a letter of Mr. W. Menzies, Deputy Surveyor of the Royal Park. The works of the Windsor Castle Sewage Farm went on without interruption.

On Tuesday evening Mr. Alderman A. B. Walker entertained at Liverpool 700 of the aged poor of both sexes to a substantial dinner.

The Marine Department of the Board of Trade has taken over the work of the Emigration Office, which will in future be conducted at Whitehall, under the supervision of Mr. Thomas Gray, Marine Assistant Secretary.

Walter Hamilton Trinder committed suicide on Friday night, after an attempt to murder a young woman with whom he had been keeping company. The latter, who had received serious injuries, appears likely to recover.—A reward of £100 has been offered by the Home Office for the apprehension of the murderer of Harriet Buswell, who was found with her throat cut, last week, at No. 12, Great Coram-street.—A policeman was on Tuesday murdered by a butcher at Cardiff without provocation, and the assassin afterwards attempted to commit suicide. The latter is believed to be insane.—An old lady named Kerr and her servant, residing in a lone house near Belfast, were discovered by the milkman, when he made his rounds on Monday morning, to have been murdered. It appears that the object of the crime was plunder, a large quantity of plate and other valuables having been carried off. A woman has been arrested in Belfast on suspicion of being concerned in the crime.—On Saturday last a man named Turner was taken to the Hull police-station, charged with being drunk. He then stated that, at seven in the morning, he had murdered his wife. An officer was sent to the house and found the poor woman in bed in an unconscious state, with three large wounds, inflicted with a hatchet, on the left side of her head. In the same bed were two young children, crying. Hardly any hopes are entertained that Mrs. Turner will survive.—Margaret Hanlon, the apple-stall keeper sentenced to death at Liverpool Assizes for the murder of a boy, by stabbing him with a knife, has been reprieved by the Home Secretary.—George King, who gave himself up to the Newcastle police as the Eltham murderer, has been discharged, it being apparent that he is insane.—On Monday morning Michael Kennedy, who was convicted at the late Salford Hundred Assizes for the murder of his wife, was hanged within the county prison at Manchester.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

The Lady Mayoress will give a juvenile ball at the Mansion House on Friday, the 17th inst.

The Albert Bridge at Chelsea was opened on Tuesday. There was an absence of ceremony, as the bridge is as yet in an unfinished condition.

The young rhinoceros born immediately on the arrival of its mother in the Thames has died. The young hippopotamus in the Zoological Society's Gardens is thriving.

The Fishmongers' Company has contributed 100 gs. to the funds of the British and Foreign School Society, to assist in increasing the accommodation for training teachers in the society's colleges.

The *City Press* states that the London City Mission have taken a portion of the ground whereon Radley's Hotel formerly stood in New Bridge-street, and are about to erect a handsome building of brick and stone in the Italian style.

A farewell banquet was given at Willis's Rooms, on Wednesday evening, by the officers of the 7th (Queen's Own) Hussars to the officers of the 10th (Prince of Wales's Own) Hussars before their departure for India. Lieutenant-Colonel Hale presided.

Special services were held in many places of worship in London on Tuesday night, in connection with the custom of watching out the last hours of the old year. In some cases the arrival of the new year was ushered in by merry peals from the church bells.

The Royal Humane Society is about to establish a receiving-house near Waterloo Bridge, with similar appliances to those in use in Hyde Park for the resuscitation of the apparently drowned, together with a staff of attendants, with the view to the prevention of suicides.

The first of the four conversazioni announced to take place during the present session in connection with the Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts will be held, by permission of the council of the Society of British Artists, at their galleries, in Suffolk-street, Pall-mall, on Jan. 16.

Dr. Lethby, the medical officer of health for the City, in his annual report on the sanitary condition of the City, states that the markets and slaughter-houses were duly inspected during last year, and the inspectors condemned and seized 195,522 lb. of meat as unfit for human food.

At the Christmas general meeting of the Royal Society of Musicians the financial statement of the year was read, and showed a balance in favour of the society of over £700. The society is at present supporting ten members, forty-two widows, and twenty children. Over £3000 was last year applied to the benevolent purposes of the society.

Mendelssohn's "Elijah" will be performed at the Sacred Harmonic Society's next Subscription Concert, on Friday, the 10th inst. Mr. Santley will sustain the part of the Prophet Elijah—Madame Sherrington, Madame Patey, and Mr. Vernon Rigby being the other principal vocalists. The performance will take place at Exeter Hall, under the direction of Sir Michael Costa.

A deputation of cab-drivers yesterday week presented a memorial to the Chief Commissioner of Police asking for an increase in the number of cab-stands, and for more liberal police regulations to be applied to cabs attending places of amusement. Colonel Henderson agreed with the suggestion for augmenting the number of stands, and promised to consider the other points brought before him.

Again it is reported in the Italian capital that the tributaries of the Po are rising, and a deplorable tale of suffering on the part of the inhabitants of the flooded districts was told at Tuesday's meeting of the Relief Fund Committee at the Mansion House, where it was stated that the condition of matters was even worse than before. The total amount of the subscriptions was reported to be more than £6000, and it was resolved that £1000 should be sent off at once.

The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers last week was 110,739, of whom 36,017 were in workhouses and 74,722 received outdoor relief. Compared with the corresponding period in the years 1871, 1870, and 1869, these figures showed a decrease of 13,733, 36,426, and 42,164 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved was 638, of whom 489 were men, 125 women, and 24 children under 16.

Taking the past quarter, the deaths in London were fewer by 4655 than in the corresponding period of 1871. Last week 1923 births and 1232 deaths were registered—the former having been 88, and the latter 470, below the average. Ten persons died from smallpox, 9 from measles, 18 from scarlet fever, 6 from diphtheria, 37 from whooping-cough, 22 from different forms of fever, and 16 from diarrhoea; thus to the seven principal diseases of the zymotic class 118 deaths were referred, against 115 and 89 in the two preceding weeks.

The Christmas dinner annually given to the poor at the Leicester-square Soup-Kitchen and Refuge was distributed on Christmas Eve, and 825 worthy distressed families were provided with 4 lb. of beef, 3 lb. of plum-pudding, tea, sugar, bread, and other comforts, sent for the enjoyment of the needy. The distribution lasted from three till ten o'clock. In all 3600 lb. of meat, 2475 lb. of plum-pudding, 825 half-quartet leaves, three barrels of ale and porter, 214 lb. of sugar, 15 lb. of cocoa, 105 lb. of tea, 7 cwt. of biscuits, &c., were given away.

That portion of the ride in Rotten-row extending from Hyde Park-corner to Albert-gate, which has for the last two months been closed for repairs, was opened on Wednesday to equestrians. The foundation of the track has been thoroughly examined, repaired, and the entire length covered with bright red sand and gravel. The length from Albert-gate to Kensington-gardens is now also, by order of the Commissioner of Works and Public Buildings, being subjected to a similar process.

The Society of Arts has decided upon holding technological examinations in respect of five articles of manufacture—those of cotton, silk, paper, steel, and carriages. The society commences these examinations with the full support of the Science and Art Department. The new examinations are divided into three parts. The first includes branches of science a knowledge of which is considered requisite as a foundation for sound technical instruction; the second part relates to the technology of the manufacture, or the special application of the various branches of science to it; and the third relates to practical skill in the manufacture itself. While the system is new and the technical education of the English artisans imperfect, the society is not sanguine of obtaining a large number of candidates. The society offers certificates only, and it looks to chambers of commerce and others interested to add substantial prizes. The Society of Arts also offers certificates if local boards can be formed to carry out a scheme of *viva voce* examinations in modern languages for working men.



THE FLOODS: THE VALLEY OF THE THAMES FROM THE ROUND TOWER, WINDSOR CASTLE.



A SAILOR'S OFFERING: A SCENE IN NORMANDY.

THE SAILOR'S OFFERING.

The English Protestant visitor to a seaside village of Normandy has sometimes been astonished with the sight of *ex voto* gifts to the Virgin Mary or the local patron saint, hung upon the walls of a chapel, or before the altar in a peculiar recess of the parish church, by the grateful piety of many poor people who joined their promises of such a token, in case of a favourable event, to their devout prayers for superhuman aid, in their time of distress and personal or domestic trouble. We have even seen, in the lofty church of Notre Dame de Bon Secours, near Rouen, an inscription recording the special thankfulness of a successful office-seeker, who had gained the ear of the Prefect in that department of the late French Empire, and had been appointed to the receipt of a salary paid by his Majesty Napoleon III. But most of the votive offerings are intended to commemorate escapes from dangerous accidents or the recovery of health after sickness; and the article presented is often a small model, in carved wood, ivory, or metal, of the bodily part which was hurt or affected by disease. On the same principle, the sailors and fishermen of the coast who have been mercifully preserved from some extreme peril amidst the fury of raging winds and waves, are fond of bringing a little boat, lugger, yawl, or cutter, like those which are the favourite playthings of many English boys, to be suspended at the feet of Our Lady in the consecrated building. The reader of Horace and Juvenal will, perhaps, remember that a similar custom prevailed in the heathen worship of ancient Rome. The sailor's wife and child, assisting with the lighted wax tapers at this well-meant offering of devotion, give it an air of family affection which one does not see unmoved.

FINE ARTS.

OLD MASTERS AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

The selection of works by the Old Masters which has been brought together in this, the fourth, Winter Exhibition at Burlington House, confirms the impression that the pictorial treasures in private hands in this country are of almost inconceivable preciousness and variety. A much larger proportion of the collection than in previous years consists of works which have never been submitted to the public, or not for many years, either at the Old British Institution, at Manchester, Leeds, or elsewhere. Yet the average is as high, if not higher, than on any former occasion. It is true that the gathering is not nearly so numerous as was the first display, but there are ample materials for study and enjoyment of some of the principal phases of the leading school. There are, besides, two features of novel interest. About forty pieces of sculpture by deceased British sculptors occupy the Octagon Gallery, and in another room there is a series of fine water-colour drawings by many of the early British masters of the art.

The oil pictures number only 233, consequently an attempt at chronological arrangement is not so desirable as it would be with a larger assemblage. As calculated to facilitate public instruction we recommend the observance, wherever practicable, of chronological sequence in the distribution of works of art; yet, in the present instance, not much would be gained, probably, by that plan. The arrangement of the works—which has some artistic, if not historical, recommendations—is as follows:—In the vestibule and first room are works by English masters; in the second—as also in the fourth—room are other works by deceased British painters, together with examples of the later Continental painters; in the third or great room are the largest and finest works of masters of whatever school; and in the fourth room are pictures by the early Italian and Northern masters. The sculpture is, as we have already said, disposed in the centre octagonal gallery, and the water-colour drawings in a room to the right on entering. Assuming the purely artistic to be paramount to the historical, or archaeo-artist, interest, we commence our survey with the works in the great room, which includes several masterpieces by some of the greatest artists of modern times.

Taking the numerical order in this room, the first picture is "Christ Bearing his Cross" (104), by Ribalta, one of several samples of Spanish painters (including Zurbaran, Velasquez, and Murillo) lent by Mr. F. C. Ford. The next picture, "The Passage of the Red Sea" (105), by Nicholas Poussin, is a pendant to "The Worship of the Golden Calf" (155) by the same painter on the other side of the doorway; the titles of which are, however, transposed in the catalogue. Contemporary English critics and painters are perhaps a little incredulous respecting Nicholas Poussin's claim to the high rank in art assigned to him by connoisseurs of the last generation. But, if this be so, these companion pictures go far to justify the encomia which Reynolds passed on the master's power of classical figure composition and design. A full-length of Annie, wife of George, third Earl of Albemarle, and her son, with two spaniels (108), is a good average example of Romney. The next portrait is by Reynolds, and represents Major-General the Hon. William Keppel, who, under his brother, the Viscount, conducted the storming of Moro Castle, in the Havannah (109). We regret to again remark some errors and omissions in the catalogue, though none so serious as those which occurred last year. The public might not unreasonably expect a carefully-compiled *catalogue raisonné* of an exhibition of this importance; or, at all events, the catalogue should record the inscriptions that are on the pictures themselves. This, however, is not always done. On the portrait under notice, for instance, there is an inscription, referring to the storming represented in the background, which runs thus:—"A View of the Moro Castle, at the Havannah, taken by George Keppel, Earl of Albemarle [whose wife figures in Romney's portrait above mentioned], anno 1762." This General must not be confounded with Commodore Augustus, afterwards Viscount Keppel, Reynolds's early friend, whom he accompanied on his way to Italy, in the expedition against the Algerian corsairs, and whose portrait, painted after the artist's return from Italy, and here entitled "Captain" Keppel, appears as No. 199. Another early portrait by Sir Joshua, and likewise a souvenir of the Keppel connection, is that of "Lady Caroline Keppel, daughter of the second Earl of Albemarle." "Sir John Molesworth in his Wedding Garment" (119) appears to have been painted about the same period; and it is instructive to note the progress the master had made in richness of colour, fulness of tone, and breadth of handling, when, at the age of thirty-seven, he painted the portrait of "The Second Wife of William, Viscount Folkestone" (1761). Nearly all the finest works in the Great Room are portraits, and Vandyke, Holbein, Titian, and Velasquez may be studied to rare advantage. The Vandykes form a magnificent series. One of the earliest is probably the portrait of "Henrietta of Lorraine, Princess of Phalsburg" (132), painted in 1634, two years after Vandyke had finally settled in England. Of higher character, however, are the nobly-grave and manly whole-lengths of the unfortunate "Duke of Hamilton" (127), who was beheaded in 1649; and "The First Earl of Denbigh" (135). The group of the youthful Lords John and Bernard Stuart, sons of the Duke of Lennox (117), and the whole-length of "Madame Kirk" (130), were probably painted not long after the artist's return from Italy. Their

splendid colouring, all aglow with almost excessively rich ambers, ruby reds, and golden browns, recall the masterpieces of Genoa, though there is some trace of the affected sentiment of later works. This tendency is, however, much more apparent in the full-length of "Rachel, Countess of Southampton" (111), clad in rich swirls of blue drapery, seated among clouds, her hand resting on a crystal globe, her foot on a skull, with wanton expression and a voluptuously displayed bosom—one of the ablest of those semi-allegorical, stilted portraiture in which Vandyke ministered to the growing licentiousness of the Court.

We now invite attention to the famous Holbein known as "The Ambassadors" (114), the largest, with the exception of the Barber-Surgeons' picture, and by Mr. Wormum and others considered the most important work by the great German master in this country. We confess we are somewhat disappointed with it. We miss the intense individuality in the physiognomies which is Holbein's pre-eminent merit. Nor do the faces bear out with due relative force against the very strong relief and marvellous elaboration of the multifarious accessories. The lighting, moreover, is from at least two distinct sources. The subject of the picture is dubious. It is believed to represent Sir Thomas Wyatt, the poet and diplomatist, who was sent by Henry VIII. on a mission to Paris, and his secretary. There are two sketches of Sir Thomas among the Windsor drawings, but we do not remember that these clearly identify the principal figure. We rather think not, and therefore invite Mr. Wormum or other biographers of Holbein to verify the point. Be this as it may, the picture is in no wise illustrative of any ambassadorial function. On the contrary, the painter's evident aim was simply to set forth the private studies and tastes of the personages represented. On a kind of "whatnot" in the centre of the composition are various astronomical instruments, such as globes, celestial and terrestrial, an astrolabe, &c. There are also musical instruments, and an open book of music, with words (strange to say, if the subject be English) in German. On the floor in front is a nondescript object which seems to be a *crux* for all the critics, and which is decidedly out of perspective with the parqueted or tessellated pattern of the flooring from which it seems to rise unaccountably. Our impression of this object is that it is a fish-skin dried—possibly used as a receptacle for writing materials. It is certainly not merely the "bones of some fish," as stated by Mr. Wormum. The more prominent figure in the picture is dressed in a slashed pink satin jerkin and black velvet cloak trimmed with ermine; round his neck hangs a gold chain, with figure of St. Michael or St. George hanging therefrom. The secretary or learned friend is simply attired in black clerical cap and long brown patterned gown. This picture comes from Longford Castle, near Salisbury, the seat of Lord Radnor, who has contributed several of the most remarkable works now at Burlington House; and whose collection, though ignored altogether by Waagen, and familiar to comparatively few, is one of the choicest in the kingdom.

Vis-a-vis to the "Ambassadors" is the still more celebrated "Cornaro Family," by Titian, from Northumberland House. Far as the poles asunder are the principles upon which these great works were executed. The one presents to the eye imitation, infinitely painstaking, minute and exact, but all is still as the reflection in a mirror. The other addresses itself to the mental impression by vigorously rapid and eloquently descriptive brushwork, by simple grandeur of contour and a generalised breadth which allows the eye to rest on no detail, by pomp of colour and extraordinary substantiality of impasto; every figure, in consequence, seems a living, breathing entity. The handling in this work is so unusually free for Titian, the character of the faces is rendered so strongly—suggesting careless drawing and modelling on the one hand, or distortion in the models on the other—that some doubts may be entertained as to the correct ascription of the work. At all events, there are marks of haste in the picture; and Titian may possibly have been influenced by the dash of Tintoretto in its execution, though the scheme of colour is distinctly that of Titian, and does not resemble either his great contemporary's "Portrait of a Young Man" (124) or the large "Baptism of Christ" (140)—which resembles a design by Veronese. The composition of the "Cornaro Family" is well known from engravings. Three robed male figures, bending the knee on the steps of an altar, and advanced towards the centre, are relieved against a sky background; while on each side are groups of three youths. The picture was bought by the tenth Earl of Northumberland, at the sale of Vandyke's effects, in 1656. Vigour and daring of hand are, however, carried still further, yet are still more expressive, and guided with greater certainty, in two portraits by Velasquez, which to artist-eyes are little short of miraculous. We allude to the bust of "Juan de Pareja" (141), the artist's Moorish freedman, and the whole-length of "Don Adrian Pulido Pareja, Admiral of the Fleet of New Spain" (149), a man of most determined and even forbidding aspect, with a shock head of jet-black hair, *farouche* moustaches and beard, dressed in black, with white lace collar, &c. Simple black and white, as here treated by the great Spaniard, is far more precious artistically than the most gorgeous colouring of almost all other painters. Rembrandt is not a whit less wonderful in two or three examples. Who could choose between these giants in art? Each is unrivalled; each attains perfectly that at which he aims. The great Dutchman does not often seek for suggestiveness and brilliancy of touch, but he realises with unerring refinement the most subtle traits of character and expression. No painter that ever lived has, perhaps, got so near to nature. Look, for instance, at the amazingly-elaborate fidelity of the old lady's head, set off by the immense white ruff, in No. 126; or the old heads of "The Shipbuilder and his Wife" (118), from the Royal collection; or the "Lady with Parrot" (137), which retains the golden glazes of his later works. Other noteworthy portraits—upon which, however, we have not space to dwell—are "An Armed Man in Black" (143), ascribed to Titian, but certainly by Moroni; "A Lady and Boy of the Morosini Family" (145), attributed to Giorgione; "The Daughter of Palma Vecchio" (134), by Paris Bordone—the same fair-haired, full-bosomed beauty, apparently, that figures in the National Gallery picture as a lady of the Brignole family. No. 120, by Gainsborough, may be alluded to again when we notice more lovely female portraits by him in the side rooms. The inquiry may, however, here be made why this is simply described in the catalogue as "A Lady in a Blue Dress," when the following inscription occurs on the frame:—"Hon. Frances Duncombe, daughter of Anthony, Lord Faversham; b. 1757, d. 1827.—T. Gainsborough, R.A., 1778"?

One of the largest and most important pictures in Room III. still remains unnoticed—i.e., "Daniel in the Lions' Den" (131), by Rubens, lent by the Duke of Hamilton. A peculiar interest attaches to this picture on account of it being one of the very few great pictures by Rubens which we are authorised to accept as executed entirely by his own hand, without assistance from any of his numerous scholars. In an Italian letter to Sir Dudley Carleton, printed in Carpenter's "Pictorial Notices," Rubens wrote of this picture as "taken from the life original: the whole by my hand." Various drawings by Rubens for the lions and lionesses in the picture are also preserved. In

the completed work the animals, with their diverse attitudes and gestures of prowling or repose, roaring, snarling, or playing, are the more admirable portion of the composition. The seated figure of Daniel, with his face turned prayerfully upwards, is not impressive—indeed, it has little more effect on the imagination than an ordinary study of a brawny nude model; and there is some very questionable drawing in the crossed leg and foot of the prophet. The colouring is rather monotonous and opaque. On the whole, we think that there are many pictures designed by the master and executed, in all probability, by his scholars, which are as acceptable as this particular example of Rubens himself. A large picture of "Ruth and Naomi" (152), ascribed to Murillo, has a tone and other characteristics which seem Italian rather than Spanish. We conclude our observations on the contents of the principal gallery with mention of Lord Radnor's lovely pair of Claudes (144 and 147), two of the most beautiful examples we have ever seen.

We understand that the whole of the engravings and etchings which Turner left to, and which have remained in the possession of his next-of-kin, will be sold by Messrs. Christie, Manson, and Woods during the coming season. The collection comprises proof-engravings, including those for the "Liber Studiorum" and "England and Wales," together with some very choice and rare etchings.

The plan of inviting a competition for medals having proved successful last year, the directors of the Crystal Palace have resolved to open another competition during the ensuing season.

An Exhibition of Sketches of All Nations, to include water-colour and black-and-white drawings, is to open in New York on the 1st proximo.

An art-club has been formed at Liverpool with similar constitution and aims to those of the Burlington Fine-Art Club in London. The first exhibition of this new Liverpool Art-Club has just been opened, and consists of a collection of objects of Oriental art of extraordinary interest. Mr. James L. Bowes, the owner of probably the finest collection of old Japanese enamels to be found out of Japan, is the principal contributor.

ROYAL INSTITUTION LECTURES.

WEIGHT OF AIR.

Professor Odling, F.R.S., gave the first of his course of Christmas lectures on Air and Gas on Saturday last. He began with familiar illustrations of the buoyancy of water, stating that, as by the suspension of a heavy body in a vessel of water, an addition is made to the pressure of weight supported by the vessel, so a corresponding subtraction is made from the strain on the point of suspension, a portion of the weight being supported by the upward pressure of the water. The buoyancy thus imparted to the suspended body is a result of the weight of water, and of its property of transmitting pressure in all directions. The amount of upward pressure exerted by water on a submerged body being equal to the weight of a quantity of water of the same size as the body, it follows that bodies of the same density as water, by their buoyancy when submerged, cease to manifest any weight. In raising a bucket of water from a well its weight is not felt so long as it remains in the water. After further experimental proofs, the Professor proceeded to consider the properties of air, which he demonstrated in various ways to be a material substance, not only when in motion as wind, but also as capable of being felt when at rest, inclosed in a bladder, and transmitting pressure in every direction. He then showed how air can be weighed in several ways. By means of the air-pump, the air contained in a flask was sucked out completely and weighed. It was then refilled with air and again weighed, the increase of weight being noted. Air was thus shown to be comparatively a heavy body. Under standard conditions, a cubic foot weighs exactly 537 grains, or nearly an ounce and a quarter; and the Professor stated that the theatre of the Institution contains above 30,000 cubic feet of air, weighing upwards of a ton. He then adverted to the existence of other kinds of air, or gas—exhibiting the inflammable gas obtained by the action of dilute sulphuric acid from metals, termed hydrogen, the lightest of all gases—ordinary air being fourteen and a half times heavier; and he showed that a heavy balloon filled with hydrogen ascended in the heavier air in the same way that heavy logs of timber rise in the heavier water. The properties of marsh-gas and coal-gas were also considered and illustrated.

ELASTICITY OF AIR.

Professor Odling began his second lecture, given on Tuesday last, with several instructive illustrations of the effects of the buoyant action of water and air, including an experiment by which he proved that when two bodies of different sizes balance each other, in either water or air, the larger must be really the heavier, its greater weight being compensated by the greater amount of buoyancy of water or air. He then proceeded to consider and exhibit the property possessed by air of expanding, so as to fill up an enlarged space, of which property advantage is taken in the construction of the air-pump. As the air in the glass bell, termed the receiver, is gradually withdrawn by pumping, the remaining air swells out and occupies the space afforded in every direction; but an absolutely perfect vacuum is unattainable, since some air in an exceedingly attenuated state is always left behind. Of this, the Professor gave brilliant proofs, by exhibiting several of Mr. Gassiot's vacuum tubes, in which a mere trace of the particular kind of gas left behind was recognised by the peculiar colour of the electric discharge passed through it. Professor Odling, after considering the principle of the ordinary air-pump, consisting of a receiver connected with a cylinder and piston or plunger, explained the construction of the valuable air-pump of Dr. Sprengel, in which the piston is replaced by a succession of drops of mercury, each of which acts as a piston by falling through a long tube and sweeping out the air. Having thus shown that the air-pump depends for its action on the property of air to spread itself out into any enlarged space given to it, the Professor explained and illustrated the principle of the condensing syringe, which depends for its action on the property of air to suffer compression into an exceedingly diminished space. These correlative properties of air, he said, are not known to have any limits. Air has been compressed into one six-hundredth of its original bulk, and may be expanded many thousandfold, and thus differs altogether from water. Among other examples of the force of compressed air the air-fountain was exhibited, a jet of water being thus projected many feet upward. The tendency of ordinary air to expand was also shown by the expansion of the air in a bladder in the exhausted receiver of an air-pump, and in other ways, this expansion in ordinary cases being opposed by the external pressure of the atmosphere. This state of air the Professor compared to the force of a spring-coil pressed upon by a weight. For the spring to remain in a particular state there must be an exact balance between the elasticity of the spring tending to raise the weight and the pressure of the weight tending to compress the spring. In some cases, when the atmospheric pressure is removed, the expansive force of the air is sufficient to break the vessel which contains it.

THE CHURCH.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Badcock, F. Baynes, to be Chaplain to the Bishop of Ripon.
Crotch, Wm. Robert; Vicar of Catherington.
Davis, Benjamin; Vicar of Cleeve Prior, near Evesham.
Johnston, Henry Graydon; Rector of Tolland, Somerset.
Poussier, W. B.; Curate of All Saints', South Lynn.
Robertson, W. H.; Chaplain of the Durham Union House.
Russell, E. R.; Rector of Welney, Norfolk.
Wright, J.; Vicar of Falmouth.
Williams, R. Mainwaring; Rector of Edmondsham, Dorset.
Wood, C. P.; Curate of St. Philip's Church, Georgetown Demerara.

The Bishop of Rochester has reopened the Church of St. Michael, Ercethurh.

A memorial tablet has been placed in Winchester Cathedral to Miss Austen, the authoress.

The newly-appointed Bishop of Rupert's Land, Dr. Horden, preached at Exeter on Sunday, and, referring to his work, said his district was 1200 miles long by 600 broad.

The ceremony of collating and installing the new Chancellor of Lincoln, the Rev. Dr. Benson, took place in the cathedral on Saturday last in the presence of a large congregation. The Bishop of Lincoln received him at the altar of the church.

Lord Eliot on Monday presided at a meeting, held at Plymouth, in defence of the Athanasian Creed. A protest against the mutilation of the creed, or its removal from its present position in the services of the Church, was carried.

Speaking at Bradford, last Saturday, after he had laid the foundation-stone of a new church school, Mr. Powell, M.P., described the present moment as one of anxiety in the history of education, and declared himself in favour of maintaining the religious element in all training imparted to the young.

Saturday being "the Innocents' Day," there was a special service for children at Westminster Abbey, and Dean Stanley preached a sermon, suitable to the tender years of his audience, on the boyhood of the Saviour. The hymns and lessons were selected for the occasion.

A handsome family bible and a purse of money have been presented to the Rev. William Holmes by members of the congregation of St. Saviour's, South Hampstead, "as an expression of their esteem and appreciation of the zeal and ability displayed by him as morning preacher during the time he was assistant curate of this parish."

Worcester Cathedral has set the example to its sister ministers in adopting chimes by a carillon machine, manufactured by Messrs. Gillett and Bland, of Croydon, on the principle of a barrel organ. It was recently opened by the Rev. R. Cattley, whose indefatigable exertions in his much-loved belfry appear to have been crowned with complete success. The machine is constructed to play twenty-eight tunes on fifteen bells, but at present plays only seven on twelve bells, occasionally introducing the great hours bell of 4½ tons. The machine is wound up every morning, and plays eight times in the course of twenty-four hours, a period of three hours elapsing between each performance. The same tune is repeated three times on each occasion, and it continues in action four minutes and a half. At the expiration of twenty-four hours the tune changes involuntarily, and in like manner the seven tunes of the barrel are consecutively played.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

OXFORD.

The Hulmeian trustees at Manchester have appointed the following members of Brasenose to the vacant Hulmeian Exhibitions at that society—viz., A. E. Quekett (commoner), E. W. D. Manson (scholar), and H. J. Wilkinson (commoner). The Hulmeian Exhibitions are the most valuable in the University, being worth £135 per annum, and a present of books of the value of £20, to be approved by the Principal of Brasenose, and are tenable for four years, during residence at Brasenose. The exhibitors are afterwards eligible for the livings in the gift of Hulme's trustees.

The Rev. E. L. Hicks, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of Corpus, has accepted the college living of Fenny Compton, Warwickshire, vacant by the resignation of Canon Heurtley, who had held it since 1840. Mr. H. Nettleship, M.A., late Fellow of Lincoln, Assistant Master at Harrow School, has been elected Fellow, and will succeed Mr. Hicks as Tutor.

Mr. William Little, Probationary Fellow and Lecturer, was, on Saturday last, admitted Actual Fellow of Corpus Christi.

CAMBRIDGE.

The prizes founded by the late Doctor Jeremie, Dean of Lincoln, and Regius Professor of Divinity, to be given to such students as shall exhibit the best evidence of a critical study of the Septuagint Version of the Old Testament, and such other Hellenistic literature as may serve to illustrate the New Testament, have been adjudged to William Amherst Hayne, B.A., Trinity, and A. C. Jennings, B.A., St. John's.

Mr. Charles Archer Cook, B.A., of Trinity Hall, has been elected to the vacant law studentship.

Mr. Richard Apjohn, B.A., of Trinity College, Dublin, has been appointed Prelector in Chemistry at Gonville and Caius.

Law and Historical Tripos.—Class I. Ds. Lawrence, Downing, Little, Trinity, &c.; James, Trinity. Class II. Greenwood, Pembroke; Birrell and Ackland, Trinity Hall; Clutton, Emmanuel, Garret, St. John's, &c.; Somerville, Trinity Hall; Hawker, Trinity; Sampson, Trinity, Sunderland, Emmanuel, &c.; De Soysa, Caius; Ds. Cherry, Christ's; Bonnett, St. John's; Eddis, Trinity.—Class III. Ds. Glen, Christ's, Marshall, Trinity, &c.; Northcote, Trinity; Micklem, St. John's; Trench, Trinity.—Approved for an Ordinary Degree. Champion, Trinity; Edgar, Trinity Hall; Geldard, Trinity; Miller, Trinity Hall; Parnell, Trinity; Roxburgh, Trinity Hall.

At a meeting of Welsh commercial travellers at Chester it has been resolved to raise £2000, for the purpose of establishing three scholarships in the Welsh University.

The following awards have been made at Malvern College:—Wilton Exhibition—A. G. Blomefield. West Exhibition—F. H. Fowler and E. Vaughan, &c. Chance Exhibition—A. K. George. The entrance scholarships have been awarded as follow:—£80 Scholarships—1. F. H. Fowler, of Malvern College; 2. D. P. Harrison, of Malvern College. £40 Scholarships—1. H. J. Thomas, of Mount Radford School, Exeter; 2. E. Johnson, Mr. Middleton's School, of Weston-super-Mare; 3. A. Cripps, Cheltenham Preparatory School. The Lea Exhibition—1. W. Hadow, Malvern College; 2. W. Tyndall, private tuition. Examiners—A. O. Prickard, New, Oxford; and H. St. J. Hunter, Jesus, Cambridge.

The Rev. F. G. Fleay, M.A., Head Master of Hipperholme Grammar School, was on Saturday last elected to the head mastership of the Skipton Grammar School.

A valuable testimonial has been presented to the Rev. Charles Braddy, M.A., on his retirement, by former pupils and others connected with the City of London School, in recognition of the unspare labour and remarkable ability with which for twenty-five years he had discharged the office of assistant master in that institution.

THE DICEY CHANNEL STEAMER.

We have lately given some illustrations of the two different contrivances proposed by Mr. S. J. Mackie and Mr. Henry Bessemer, for constructing a steam-vessel to perform the short voyage between Dover and Calais, or Folkestone and Boulogne, without rolling and pitching, or, at least, without inflicting on their passengers the miseries of sea-sickness. Captain Dicey's plan of a twin-ship, designed for the same purpose, has been adopted by the "English Channel Steam-Ship Company (Limited)"; and its principle seems worthy of attention. It is well known that the operation of a supported heavy weight parallel to, and at a distance from, a floating body, tends to steady such floating body, and makes it less sensible to the movements of the waves. In some ports of the Indian Ocean, especially at Point de Galle, the natives employ boats of 100 or 200 tons burden, with a heavy log of timber fixed at the extremity of two outriggers, projecting beyond the side of the vessel. Such boats are enabled to ride with comparative steadiness in a heavy swell, where the large Peninsular and Oriental steamers, of 2000 or 3000 tons burden, roll their ports in the water. But Captain Dicey's plan, instead of affixing a useless dead weight to the vessel, at a distance from its side, is to employ two distinct hulls, parallel to and distant from each other. By means of the girder principle, which has been found so efficacious in the construction of iron bridges, he connects these two hulls together, and thereby produces the result that each hull acts upon the other, so that any movement which would be caused to one hull by the force of the waves is counteracted by the opposite hull, and the entire vessel remains comparatively unaffected by the motion of the waves.

The vessel to be constructed for the purpose of accommodating passenger traffic between England and the Continent will consist of two hulls parallel to each other, each being 400 ft. long, 20 ft. beam, and 20 ft. depth of hold, secured together by means of girders, at a distance of 35 ft. apart, with the propelling paddles working between the two hulls. Each hull will be very sharp at each end, and flat in the floor. The draught of water will be about 6 ft. These dimensions will give a clear side out of the water, between the two vessels, of 14 ft., and will admit of girders of a slightly arched form being placed between the two hulls—the upper part under the deck, the lower part just above the water line, of which the smallest depth is 12 ft. 6 in. At each section of the hulls where the girders are placed there will be a bulkhead within the hull, strengthened with angle iron, and bolted and secured to the girder on the outside, thereby carrying the strength of the girder through the two hulls, from the outside of one to the outside of the other. By this arrangement the 6 ft. of the bulkhead in the immersed portion of the hull will also form a part of the main girder from the one hull to the other. The deck of the vessel will be continued over the girders between the two hulls, giving ample space for saloon and cabin accommodation for passengers.

The dimensions stated above will admit of a deck 60 ft. wide and 200 ft. in length, and this would allow of saloons and cabins, with every accommodation and convenience, being constructed above the deck for the comfort of passengers, without the inconvenience of the confined cabins in the vessels as now constructed; in addition, there will be a space around for the working of the vessel. The baggage and light goods would be stowed in the hold. The boilers and engines would be placed in the hulls of the vessel, below the maindeck, where there would be ample room for coals and other stores. The inner side of each hull will not be of the ordinary form, but will be straight from stem to stern, like an ordinary vessel cut in two longitudinally. This will allow of a free passage of water between the hulls. The straightness of the hulls and the height of the vessel out of the water will also admit of placing paddle-wheels of great diameter between the hulls; and these, worked by engines of great power placed in each hull, will give a high rate of speed. The vessel will have a rudder at each end, so as to enter or leave the port without turning round. As the outer side of each hull will be clear and unencumbered with paddle-boxes, the vessel will occupy little more space than an ordinary paddle-wheel steamer, and may lie close alongside the quay, pier, or wharf.

If it were thought requisite to carry the railway trains across the Channel, the inventor holds that there could be no form of vessel better adapted for the purpose, as the great stability of his twin-ship would make it perfectly safe to carry the trains on deck; and there is ample room between the saloon and the bulwarks for this purpose. It is, however, considered undesirable to make such a provision for carrying this unnecessary weight, as goods and all kinds of freight (baggage included) can easily be packed in large vans, which can be hoisted in and out by means of steam-cranes without the necessity of disturbing them.

The inventor is supported by the opinion of eminently practical men, who believe with him that the proposed form of vessel will overcome the discomfort of the middle passage, felt so disagreeably in the present Channel steamers, and that the gain of space and travelling accommodation will make its employment a profitable mercantile speculation. Twin vessels have long been successfully used both in India and America. What Captain Dicey claims principally is the adaptation of such vessels for sea voyages; and the mode of securing the two hulls by means of girders, so constructed as to unite the two hulls rigidly together, and thus to make them perfectly secure and safe in a seaway.

In the Deck Plan, which accompanies our Illustration, A A denotes the saloon or promenade deck, B the passengers' bridge deck, and b the officers' bridge; C C C are the companion adders, to descend below; D D is the main deck; a a are the water-tight bulkheads; and c c e, the girders, connecting the two hulls of the vessel. The cross section, taken on the line marked c d in the Plan, shows how the two hulls are joined to each other by the bulkheads and girders.

Sketches of the condition and progress of literature in the several countries of the Continent, furnished for the most part by writers of reputation, appear in last Saturday's *Athenaeum*.

All dog licenses granted within the year 1872 expired on Tuesday; and it is important that owners of dogs should renew the license, which is obtainable at post-offices.

The working men of Wolverhampton and the surrounding district of South Staffordshire determined some time ago to raise £1500 towards the South Staffordshire Hospital in that town, which had just been enlarged. They could not, however, collect more than £600. But the work was resumed at Christmas under the happy idea of a "Christmas-box." So ready and liberal has been the response, and so desirous have been the employers and merchants to assist in the work, that on Saturday, at a meeting held in Wolverhampton for the purpose, two checks of the united value of £1500 were handed to the weekly board of the hospital, and there is yet more to come. By this handsome Christmas-box the hospital is now free from all debt in connection with its recent considerable enlargement, which includes a fever department.

MR. JUSTICE ARCHIBALD.

The new Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, Sir Thomas Dickson Archibald, who succeeded Sir James Hannen on his appointment to be Judge of the Probate and Divorce Court, is a native of British North America. He is the second surviving son of the late Hon. S. G. W. Archibald, Master of the Rolls and Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court of Nova Scotia, many years Speaker of the House of Assembly there. His elder brother, Mr. Edward M. Archibald, C.B., is the present Consul-General at New York. Mr. Archibald was called to the Bar by the Society of the Middle Temple in 1852, after having practised as a special pleader nearly eight years. He joined the Northern Circuit immediately after his call, but, in 1853, changed to the Home Circuit, of which he continued to be a member. In February, 1868, he was appointed by Sir John Karslake, then Attorney-General, to succeed Mr. Hannen as junior counsel to the Treasury, the duties of which office he performed nearly five years with great ability. During his career at the bar Mr. Archibald enjoyed a varied and extensive practice, and was engaged in many important cases. We may mention, among others, the great Shrewsbury case, in which he was junior for the claimant; the case of "Tapling v. Jones," in the House of Lords; the Duneldon and Wicklow peerage claims; the Fenian and bribery prosecutions; many colonial, Indian, and patent cases in the Privy Council; and nearly all the ecclesiastical appeals of recent years. A most useful reform—the Petitions of Right Act—which has been productive of great relief to suitors against the Crown, carried through Parliament by the present Lord Chief Justice Buxton, was, we believe, suggested and drawn by Mr. Archibald.

Our Portrait of the new Judge is engraved after a photograph by Mr. John Watkins, of Parliament-street, Westminster.

NEW BRIDGE OVER THE NILE, AT CAIRO.

Our Journal has frequently noticed the unremitting energy displayed by the Khedive of Egypt in improving the condition of his country and developing its vast resources, by increasing the means of communication between the various parts of the Egyptian territory. It may be truly said that every year of the Khedive's reign may be remembered by posterity as having witnessed some substantial work of permanent utility for the public good. The new bridge shown in our Illustration is built across the left arm of the Nile, near Cairo, and connects Cairo with Upper Egypt by a direct carriage road. It also forms the connecting link of direct roadway between Cairo and the Pyramids; so that travellers can now leave their hotels in Cairo and drive direct to the Pyramids without the necessity of crossing the Nile in boats or even leaving their carriages.

The new bridge is supported upon sixteen iron cylinders, each having a total length of 84 ft. The lower cylinders are 8 ft. 6 in. in diameter and 14 in. thick; their length is 8 ft. 1 in., with a junction-ring to the smaller cylinders above, which are 7 ft. 3 in. in diameter and 9 ft. in length. There are five spans, each of 118 ft., resting on iron bed-plates, with a width of 31 ft. The roadway has a width of 22 ft., with a footpath on each side 4 ft. 6 in. wide. There is a fine swing bridge, to open for the passage of vessels, at the west end, the roller-path being of 24 ft. diameter. The foundation here is on four cylinders. The swing can be opened and closed with ease in the short space of three minutes. The total length of the bridge is 600 ft.

This bridge was contracted for by Messrs. Shaw and Thomson, of Leadenhall-street, London. Their contract with the Khedive was made in May, 1871; but the construction was not begun till the present year. The work has been carried on under the supervision of Mr. John Fowler, C.E., engineer-in-chief to his Highness the Khedive; and the local engineering has been superintended by Mr. John Dixon, of Pountney-hill, Cannon-street, London. The bridge, as seen from any part of the river, has a light and handsome appearance. Five bridges—namely, three railway and two for carriages, riders, and foot-passengers—now cross the Nile in different parts of the Delta and neighbourhood of Cairo, besides the barrage at the fork of the Delta.

An Inverness paper says that Mr. G. G. Mackay, who lately purchased the islands of Raasay and Rona, has sold the latter island for £10,000. Rona was included in the sale of Raasay, and the purchase money of the whole amounted to £55,000.

The dates of the Birmingham and Hereford festivals are now fixed. The former is to take place on Aug. 26, 27, 28, and 29; and the latter is to be held on Sept. 9 and three following days. This is a deviation from former regulations—the Birmingham festival having usually followed that of Hereford.

The estate of Murie, situated in the Carse of Gowrie, and extending to about 1000 acres, has been purchased by Mr. Francis Molison, who lately acquired the adjoining estate of Errol, of which Murie was originally a part. The sum paid for Murie, according to the *Dundee Advertiser*, is £78,500, bringing up the price of the two properties to £190,500.

His Majesty the Emperor of Germany and King of Prussia has been pleased to confer upon Mr. William Simpson, a Special Artist of this Journal, now in China, the war medal for the campaigns of 1870 and 1871. Mr. Simpson was at the siege of Strasbourg, the siege of Metz, and the battle-field of Sedan, after which he got into Paris and witnessed the last struggles of the French capital. Another of our Special Artists, Mr. Robert Landells, who was with the Crown Prince of Prussia's army throughout the war, has received from the Emperor of Germany a similar token of distinction.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Arrangements have been made to provide the *ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS* with sketches of various matters of interest which are expected to take place, during the months that will ensue, in different parts of the world.

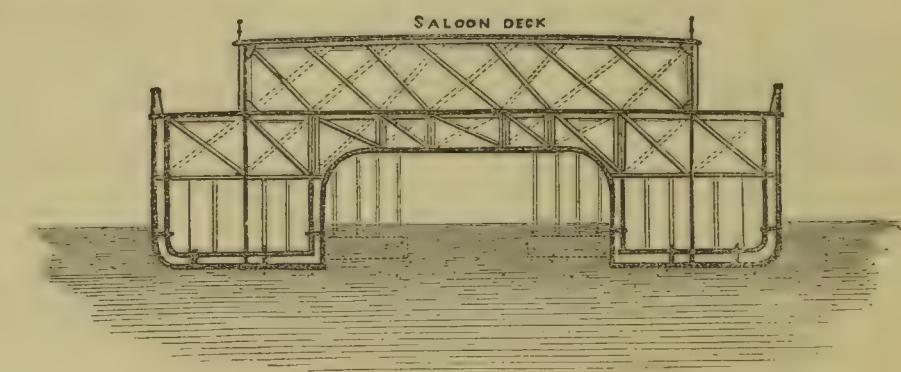
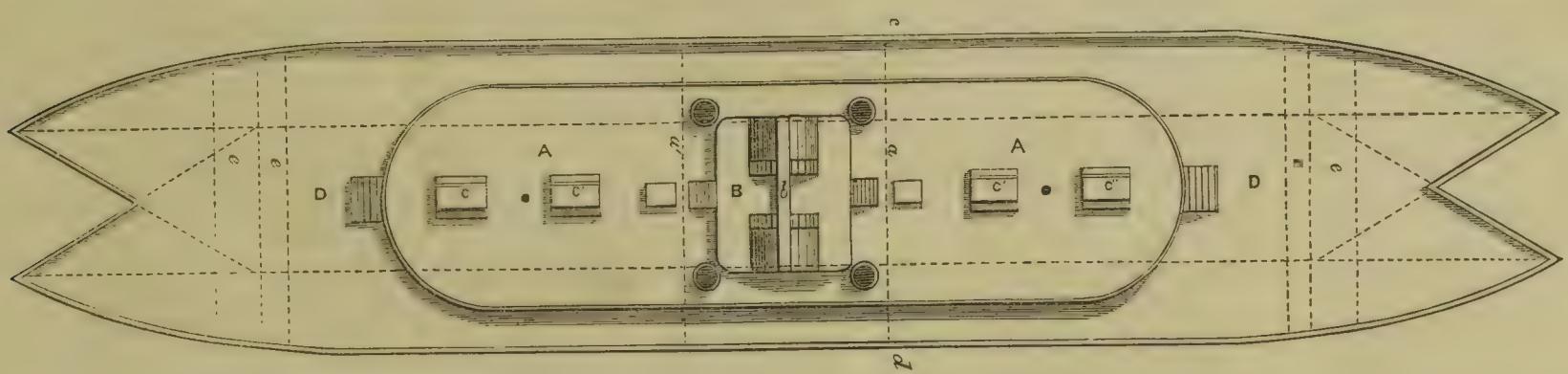
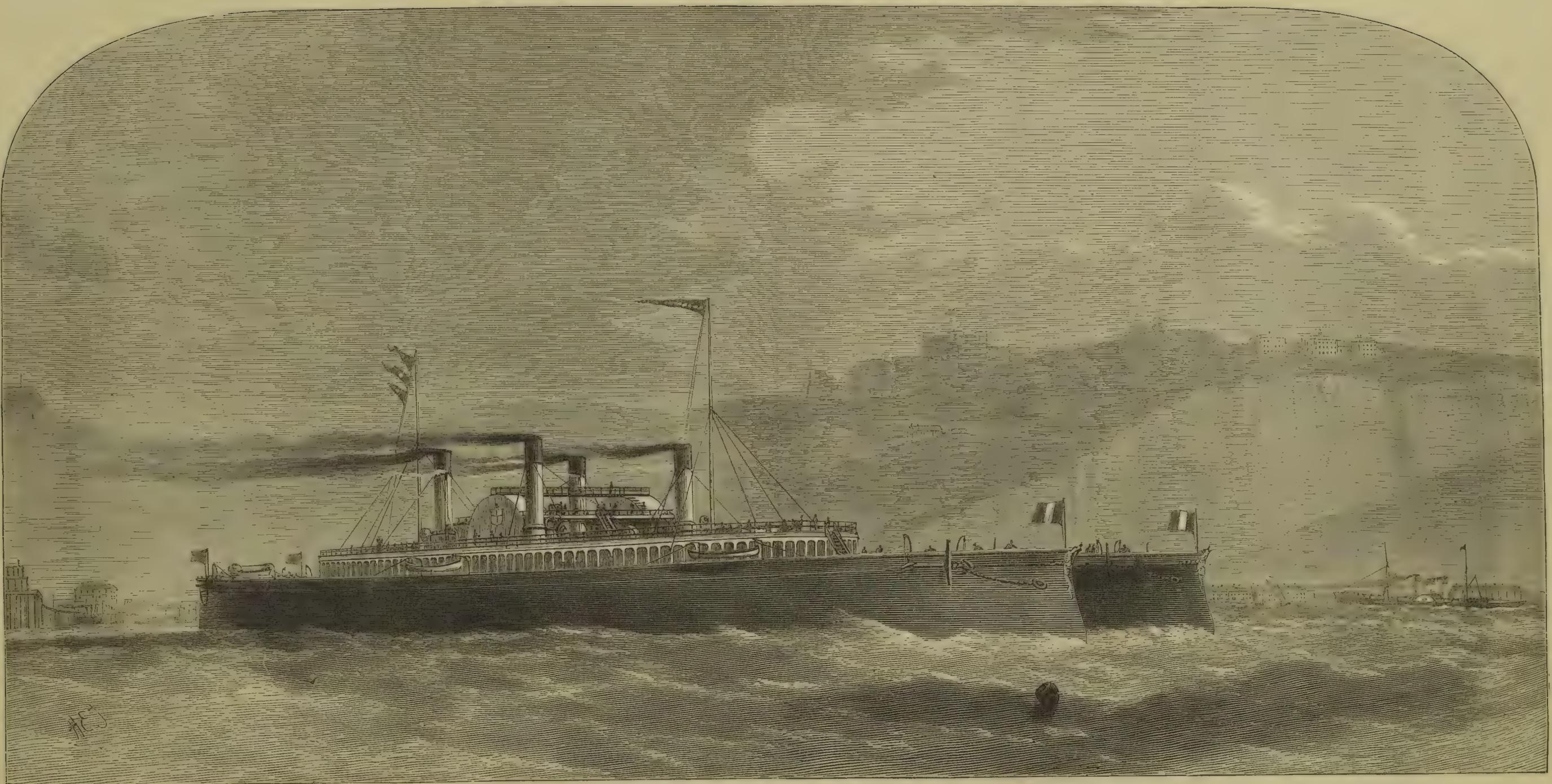
CHINA.—The well-known Special Artist of this Journal, Mr. William Simpson, who has been sent out to China expressly for this service, will contribute illustrations of the scenery, the great cities, the national habits and customs, and other characteristics of that vast Empire, as well as of the neighbouring countries in the Eastern Archipelago.

THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT will be traversed by Mr. Simpson on his way home; and in passing through California, British America, and the United States, from the Pacific to the Atlantic shores, he will be enabled to furnish a great number of sketches, representing the aspects of those new countries, and their progress in social improvement.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND will be visited by a correspondent who has already set forth on his voyage to the Antipodes, and who will procure fresh illustrations of whatever may have recently occurred of local importance in the several provinces of those remote British colonies.

EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA have lately engaged a large amount of public attention, owing to the adventures and explorations of Dr. Livingstone, and the mission of Sir Bartle Frere to put an end to the Zanzibar slave trade; the Proprietors of this Journal have therefore arranged for an early supply of sketches from that quarter of the globe.

IN EUROPE, THE VIENNA UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION OF ART AND INDUSTRY is likely to be one of the most attractive subjects of notice after its opening in May; and the *ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS* will employ Special Artists of competent knowledge and skill to represent the chief features of that exhibition. A Special Correspondent has been sent to BERLIN, and sketches illustrating the Manners and Customs of the People will appear from time to time; while at PARIS this Journal has a resident Correspondent.



THE DICEY CHANNEL STEAMER, WITH DECK PLAN AND SECTION.



MR. JUSTICE ARCHIBALD.



NEW BRIDGE ACROSS THE NILE, NEAR CAIRO.

LAW AND POLICE.

Sir W. F. Channell, one of the Bursars of Exchequer, whose health has been for some time in a bad condition, has resigned his judgeship.

Mr. Law, Q.C., has been appointed Judge of the Irish Landed Estates Court, in the place of the late Judge Lynch.

On Monday the Common Law offices were reopened. The Chancery vacation will not end till Monday next.

The Court of Chancery, upon proceedings taken by the executors of the late Bishop of Manchester, has decided that as to £3500, part of the sum of £4000 bequeathed by him after his widow's death to the Diocesan Church Building Society, the bequest is void. This sum of £3500 therefore now belongs to Mrs. Lee as residuary legatee under the will, and is at her absolute disposal. It is due to Mrs. Lee to state that, in consequence of the doubts which had arisen as to the validity of the bequest, she was desirous of having the decision of the Court in order that, in the event of the bequest being held invalid, she might be able to carry out, as far as possible, the late Bishop's intention. She intends now forthwith to present this sum to the society, after deducting the value of what would have been her life interest therein if the bequest had been legal, and the costs attendant upon the proceedings.

A petition for liquidation has been filed in the Court of Bankruptcy by the Hon. Seymour John Grey Egerton, second son of the Earl of Wilton. The liabilities are stated to be between £12,000 and £13,000.

Two actions for libel against newspapers were decided on Saturday. In the action brought by the Lord Provost of Glasgow against the *North British Daily Mail* for charging him with "corruptly making use of his position as a trustee under the City of Glasgow Improvement Trust," the jury found for the pursuer, assessing the damages at £575. The Irish case which has excited so much interest—that of Mr. Stannus against the *Northern Whig*—terminated at ten o'clock on Saturday night in a verdict for the plaintiff, £100 damages. Mr. Falkiner, in his reply on behalf of Mr. Stannus, challenged the jury to a careful investigation of the management of the Hertford estates. The Chief Justice, in charging the jury, dealt seriatim with the several allegations of tyranny against Mr. Stannus, and said that in his opinion the majority of them had failed. One of the jurors—Mr. M'Clomas, J.P.—said Mr. Stannus left the court without a stain on his character.

At Westminster, yesterday week, Margaret Partridge, a married woman, was sent for trial for stabbing her husband. The man and woman were not living together, but on Christmas Eve the man went to see his wife, in accordance with a request she had made by letter. She proposed that they should live together again, and on his refusing she attacked him with a knife and inflicted several wounds about the shoulders.

A ticket collector in the service of the Metropolitan Railway Company was on Saturday last fined 40s. by the Hammersmith police magistrate, with the alternative of fourteen days' hard labour, for an assault upon a passenger.

On Monday Walker and Wilkinson were again brought up at Clerkenwell, charged with having been in possession of £150 worth of jewellery, without giving a satisfactory account of the same. The owner of the property had been discovered, and the prisoners were committed for trial.—Edward Walsh, aged seventeen, was charged, at Southwark, with stabbing Mary Stearn. It appears that she was a servant out of place, and, with another girl, went to the above-named court to hear the trials. On leaving, the prisoner stabbed her in the back, inflicting a dangerous wound; but fortunately, although an inch and a half deep, it had not punctured the lung. The only excuse the youth made was that she "nagged at him." He was remanded.—Assaults upon the police were visited with some severe punishments. At Guildhall for this offence two were each sentenced to four months' imprisonment, with hard labour, and two women each to twenty-one days. At Clerkenwell in a less heinous case a penalty of 20s. was inflicted. At Marylebone an offender of this description was fined £5. At the Thames Police Court a labourer who had severely wounded a constable was sent to prison for two months, with hard labour. For an assault upon a tramway conductor a man named Deller was fined 40s. by the Lambeth police magistrate. At Greenwich a violent attack upon the driver of a tramway-car by a brewer's drayman was punished by the infliction of a penalty of £5.

There was a final examination, on Tuesday, at the Mansion House, into the charge against Mr. Robert C. M. Bowles, the American banker, resulting, after a strenuous speech in his defence by Mr. Metcalfe, in a committal for trial at the Central Criminal Court, bail, amounting to £8000, being accepted.—At Westminster Lord Winchilsea's butler and footman were summoned for having assaulted one of the bailiffs of the county court. Judgment against his Lordship had been obtained by a charwoman; and on the bailiff proceeding to levy upon the Earl's goods, the defendants not only resisted him, but made him a prisoner in one of his Lordship's apartments. The defence was that the bailiff had no business in the house, which belonged to the trustees of Lady Winchilsea, the Earl being there only upon sufferance. Major-General Brownrigg

was amongst the witnesses called in support of this view. The magistrate declined to make any order, on the ground of want of jurisdiction.

At Newcastle-under-Lyne a man named Harvey has been fined half a crown and the costs for kissing a young woman under the mistletoe against her will.

The Rev. Vyvyan Henry Moyle, Vicar of Eston, was, on Monday, charged, at Middlesborough, with having forged 220 shares of £100 each upon Jackson, Gill, and Co. (Limited), carrying on the business of iron manufacturers. Sufficient evidence was taken to justify a remand. Mr. Moyle has been concerned in large commercial undertakings in the neighbourhood of Cleveland District, and was highly respected there.

Thomas Kelly, the tramp who committed a murderous assault upon Captain King, in the Isle of Anglesey, early in November, was put upon his trial, on Tuesday, on a charge of wounding one of Captain King's servants. He was found guilty and sentenced to five years' penal servitude. In consequence of the precarious state of the Captain's health, the trial on the more serious charge was postponed.

A cleverly-planned robbery was carried out on Monday night at Walmer, where the pay-office of the Royal Marine Barracks was entered, and a sum of £1900 was stolen. The sentries who were on duty are to be tried by court-martial. The thief succeeded in making good his escape.

At the Dorset Quarter Sessions, on Wednesday, Charles Curtis, of Rempsham, an elderly man, surrendered to his bail on the charge of obtaining money by false pretences in the parish of Broadmayne, near Dorchester.

The accused had acted as a wizard, or cunning man, and practised his mysterious art upon William and Jane Davis, an agricultural labourer, and his wife. The couple had a son suffering from epilepsy, and the father, believing that "some evil spirit was about him," consulted the prisoner, as a cunning man of repute, likely to effect a cure. In the month of May the first consultation was held, the prisoner receiving 10s., and promising to see what he could do. In the fall, when again visited by Davis, the wizard said the lad would "get better after a bit." Davis by this time imagined that he himself was possessed of an evil spirit, and pleaded with the wizard to deliver him also. In all about £20 was paid to Curtis, who gave no medicine, but told Mrs. Davis her husband must do away with the pick he had lent to the stable-boy Trent, for "that was the greatest part of the mischief." Davis then got the pick and buried it. He then said his son was better; but as for himself he was far from being in a satisfactory state. The prisoner, when apprehended, said he had to give the money he received to someone else; it appeared that he was a believer in witchcraft himself, and the dupe of another. The prisoner was declared guilty, and, having been previously convicted of fortune-telling, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

The fund which is being raised by Dr. Carr, of Blackheath, to establish free medical scholarships at Epsom College, designed for the benefit of the founders, the necessitous orphans of medical men, has been liberally responded to by several of the City companies—the Grocers' giving £100; the Mercers', £52 10s.; and the Goldsmiths', £50. The following London bankers, chiefly through the influence of Sir Charles Mills, M.P., have also given £50 each—viz., Messrs. Glyn, Williams, Deacon, Barclay, Coutts, Herries and Co., Scott and Co., Hervey, Brand, and Co., Charles Hoare, and Co., Gosling and Sharp, Child and Co. Among the recent additions may be mentioned W. H. Peck, Esq., M.P., £50, and Messrs. Ind, Cope, and Co., £50.

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A SKETCH IN BORNEO.

BY F. REGAMEY.



THEATRES.

THE PANTOMIMES.

DRURY LANE.

Of the few pantomimes that serve us for illustration this year, that of Old Drury is not only the most conspicuous but is also the best. Our readers already know that the poet, as usual, is Mr. E. L. Blanchard, and the poem "The Children in the Wood," embellished "with sculptures," as they say in sixteenth-century books, by the ever juvenescent W. Beverly. Mr. Blanchard, it seems, has refreshed his fancy by a study of Charles Lamb, whose dream-children have induced him to call on Queen Mab to introduce these babes of the wilderness to the world of visions. Very rightly, and in accordance with that sense of justice which is so prominent a feature in the mind of Mr. Blanchard, that illustrious author has shown an inviolable fidelity to the antique ballad which gives such pathetic utterance to the Norfolk legend which all of us, who were born children, know so well. The theme has many a time and oft been treated of in pantomime, and also in drama more than once revived, not less for its powerful interest than for its pretty music. We have already recorded that the talent of all the Vokes family has been invested in the subject; and how one of them upsets the arrangements of Dr. Dee we have sufficiently told. We need not now say how well they were received on Boxing Night, and how pleased the numerous children in the boxes were with the antics of such unrivalled pantomimists. The bringing in of the agency of Queen Mab was a happy notion. The fairy power takes the Children through the Ivory Gate of Dreams. We have also a ballet by Mr. Cormack, entitled A Gossamer Dream, in which Miss Temple and Miss Mowbray distinguish themselves. Mr. Brittain Wright, as Rufus the Ruslian, who undertakes the death of the children, exaggerates the horrors of the old Coburg villain in his outward make-up, and sings and dances with ludicrous vehemence. There are many poetical touches which meet us pleasantly in the progress of the pantomime action—such as the children hearing the harp in the air, and consequently thinking of Dreamland. The Depths of the Wood presents a most elaborate scene, wonderfully painted by Mr. Beverly, suggesting forest gloom and exhibiting tree-trunks of the most fantastic intricacy. Here the sleeping children are cared for not only by the ordinary robins, but by supplementary squirrels. The scene is "beautiful exceedingly." The acting of all the Vokeses is superb, and they are well corroborated by the efforts of Miss Harriet Coveney, and a clever little girl, Miss Violet Cameron, and Miss Russell. The harlequinade is exceedingly good; it is furnished with two Harlequins, Messrs. Walter Vokes and Willie Harvey; one Harlequin, Miss Rosina Vokes; two Columbines, Miss Jessie Vokes and Miss Lizzie Grosvenor; two Clowns, Messrs. F. Evans and W. H. Harvey; and two Pantaloons, Messrs. Paul Herring and J. Morris. At the conclusion Mr. F. B. Chatterton was called to the fore and received with enthusiasm.

PRINCESS'S.

Mr. Greenwood's "Little Goody Two-Shoes" is a marked success at this house. It owes some of its success to the music-hall melodies which, to the delight of the gallery, abound in the introduction. The allegory, touching amusement, was well received, and the points told on the audience with remarkable effect. As the Allegorical Fountains opened, and showed Dundreary, Boucicault, King Carrot, the Cromwell at the Queen's, a stalwart man, the meaning of the show was fully appreciated by the pit. Much novelty is imported into the nursery story, and characters which owe their origin to the muse of invention—such as King Harum-Scaram and his son, Niddie-Noddie, who, having insulted a fairy, is changed to a pig. Goody Two-Shoes is also well supplied with scholars, Tommy Lynn and Johnny Stout being amongst the number—wicked boys who put poor pussy into the well. The Prince Pig ultimately resumes his natural shape, and weds the heroine. There is some fine fancy in the introduction of pixies and water-nymphs; nor is the scene in which they appear less noticeable; never was Elin Land more beautifully painted. The harlequinade is not without special merit of its own; the pantomimists engaged in its elucidation are sufficient guarantees of its excellence. Mr. C. Brown is Harlequin; Mr. J. Paulo, Pantaloons; Mr. A. F. Forrest, Clown; and Miss Helena Fielding and Miss Lilian Hamilton the Columbines. Mr. A. F. Forrest and A. Forest are the Sprites, and very capital ones they prove to be. The scenery, which is excellent, is painted by Mr. F. Lloyds.

ADELPHI.

The popularity of "The Adventures of Fritz" and Mr. Emmet was placed beyond doubt by the early crowding of this theatre. The drama was followed by Mr. Charles Millwood's pantomime of "Jack and the Beanstalk"—an old subject, but always capable of being freshly treated. Yet the author has not been seduced to wander too far from the nursery tale. The characters are supported by performers of first-rate talent. Take, for instance, Miss Charlotte Saunders as Jack's mother and Miss Caroline Parkes as Jack himself. The Princess Rosatinta makes a conquest of Jack, and is beautifully represented by Miss Maude Howard. The ballet, provided by Mr. Cormack, is really charming, and indicates inexhaustible invention, as the following detail may prove:—"Attired in green-pea muslin, a troupe of pretty and graceful coryphées fill the stage, while a number of capably-trained children, in bright red velvet, run in and out between them in the course of their fantastic evolutions, so as to give to the eye all the effect of scarlet-runners running briskly up the poles amidst the green leaves." We have already described the remainder of the action of this burlesque. The scenery, by Mr. F. Lloyds, is as fanciful as it is picturesque. The whole was most vehemently applauded by an overcrowded house.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

The Christmas entertainment at the Crystal Palace has been upon a more extended scale every succeeding year, until at length it has become an elaborate spectacle. This year, too, it has been produced under the company's own management. The palace itself was profusely decorated; the central point of attraction being the great transept, fitted up and inclosed by curtains, to prevent draught, with a great valerium stretched across, forming a large auditorium capable of containing upwards of 15,000 persons. The Christmas-Tree formed, as usual, the point of attraction at the northern end, and reached to the height of nearly eighty feet. The special amusements contrived for the holiday folk comprised not only the pantomime, but numerous other exhibitions, such as the renowned troupe of the Beni-Zoung-Zoung Arabs, comic ballet and pantomime interludes, the sensational and traditional drama of "Punch and Judy," and the Great Aquarium. Mr. E. L. Blanchard has dignified his celebrated annual with the title of a grand Christmas Masque, and has aimed at a poetical conception. Jack and Jill with him, in connection with Old Dame Nature and the Fairy Art, are classic persons, and his transformation scene could have no less a subject than the exquisite dream of Endymion. Previous to its presentation he was careful to clear away the dense mists of Ignorance, and carry

off the spectator to the Temple of Art. Afterwards we have the Aquarium, with a dance of odd fishes, which Nature claims as her triumphs; to be followed by a grand ballet of the Fruits. The chief moral of the scene, however, is that Jack and Jill are not prepared for married life until they are properly instructed; the chief business is, therefore, to show how this desirable end may be brought about. The building of Jack's house is, of course, a great event; nor are the nursery rhymes forgotten, nor the rat, the cat, the dog, and the cow, which are their theme. These all take visible shape, with the man and the maiden once forlorn, the cock, and the priest—forming a grand tableau of characters on which the scene closes. At length Ignorance is vanquished and becomes desperate, but is, with his attendants, permitted to have a dance significant of his despair before finally retiring. Such is the very intellectual and moral subject of the Crystal Palace pantomime.

BURLESQUES, ETC.

COVENT GARDEN.

"Babil and Bijou" is likely to have a new lease of life, if we may judge by its success on Boxing night. Several new songs by M. Planché are introduced, which really constitute the present representation a second edition. The musician has consequently been called upon for fresh exhibitions of skill, to whom we may add the ballet master, whose elaborate additions to the original spectacle are marvels in themselves. Mlle. Dor and M. Espinosa may also be congratulated on their success—both of them do miracles in their way. We must not omit to notice M. Collodion, the Special Artist, who sketches a portrait in a second; that of M. Thiers excited much admiration.

VAUDEVILLE.

Mr. Reece has supplied this charming little theatre with a new burlesque on the subject of "Romulus and Remus," these fraternal heroes being admirably personated by Mr. D. James and Mr. T. Thorne. The author has evaded the fratricidal catastrophe, and reconciles the two great city builders before the curtain falls. A duet which they sing, partly in Latin and partly in English, is amusing. Some tableaux vivants are executed by the brothers, which in time will be rendered more perfect, and some statue portraits of modern celebrities, which will increase in interest and in number. Cromwell asking a bribe of Charles I. is very suggestive, and must convince Mr. Wills of his historical truthfulness. Miss Nelly Power added to the good result by her excellent dancing and singing.

OLYMPIC.

Justice was not done to the new burlesque on Saturday, evident want of rehearsal precluding the possibility of the proper effect being produced. Mr. Alfred Thompson, however, is not the less to be accredited for his invention, which on future evenings will doubtless fully justify itself. The subject may be imagined by the title, "How I found Crusoe." The piece is a kind of reviewal of the theatrical season, and contains references to the doings and pretences of rival establishments. Some of these were not so successful as they might have been, towards the end of the piece. An hotel at Geneva forms the initial scene. Here we meet with Gustavus Adolphus Swagg, correspondent of the *Early Avalanche* (Mr. H. Crellin), who is awaiting the verdict on the Alabama Claims. Mr. Crellin gives imitations of Messrs. Irving, Fechter, Toole, and other actors, thus whiling away the time during the painful period of suspense. Other parties next appear—Sir Digby Cataline, M.P. (Mr. W. H. Stephens), Miss Minerva Brecks (Miss Baber), Balaam Caucus, a Yankee (Mr. Canninge), and a Swiss girl (Miss Emma Chambers). Miss Rose Cullen personates Imagination with spirit. In the second scene we are taken to Crusopolis, a well-painted scene, where we meet again with Miss Chambers in another character, as Chiquita, who acts as president of a feminine government, and continually threatens to resign. She has, like other presidents, nearly all the talk to herself, and, need we say, improves the occasion. Swagg at last stands face to face with the hero of the island, duly takes off his hat, and addresses him, à la Stanley, "Robinson Crusoe, I presume?" Some marionette business, intended as a satire on the irritable race of actors, was certainly not successful; but a bevy of fair ones in beautiful costumes served for more than a compensation. These are called the troupe of Babylon Bijoux, and are quite sufficient to redeem the failure of an imperfect scene or two.

STRAND.

A new farce, entitled "A Dodge for a Dinner," by Mr. T. A. Palmer, has been produced at the Strand with success. Without much claim to novelty, it contains some amusing situations, and not a little clever dialogue. Among the characters Mr. W. H. Vernon and Miss Edith Bruce distinguish themselves.

ROYALTY.

The performance of "Le Reveillon," a broad farce in three acts, by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halevy, produced on Saturday, will prove attractive to all lovers of fun. The midnight revels of Tourillon and Gaillardin, the one a newly-appointed director of prisons; the other a staid personage, condemned to eight days' imprisonment for kicking a gendarme, form the argument. The entanglement of the plot, connected as it is with an imbroglio, in which a Russian Prince takes a part, becomes so intricate that we could not describe it in any convenient space. Some of the jokes and situations are indeed so broad that we must leave those who desire the knowledge of such matters to visit the theatre for themselves. The ludicrous nature of many of the scenes excites immoderate laughter; but the spirit of the whole is intensely French.

The foundation-stone of a Jewish synagogue, situated in Princes-road, Liverpool, was laid, on Thursday week, in the presence of a large concourse of people. In the evening a commemoration dinner was given at the Royal Hotel.

Mr. J. T. Peacock, of Sudbury House, Hammersmith, has offered to place 20,000 surplus cacti, agaves, and other plants, duplicates of which have taken prizes at the principal horticultural exhibitions, at the disposal of ladies and gentlemen interested in bazaars, fancy fairs, and other charitable enterprises. The proposal is that the plants, supplied in certain quantities, shall be sold, and the proceeds in each instance handed over as a gift to the institution concerned.

The Coal-Mines Regulation Act took effect in England and Scotland on the 1st inst., and it will take effect in Ireland on Jan. 1, 1874. The Metalliferous Mines Act also became operative on Wednesday, and applies to every mine, of whatever description, other than coal-mines. In the first statute there are seventy-six sections, and in the other forty-five. The Secretary of State, by the inspectors (the existing officers are to be continued), can exercise control and adopt regulations over all mines. The rules to be enforced will be of a stringent character for the public protection, and every precaution seems to have been adopted to prevent accidents both above and below the surface of the mines. The ages of boys to be employed are set forth, and rules are to be carried out as to their education.

MUSIC.

WINTER SEASON ITALIAN OPERA COMPANY.

But for the production of "L'Elisir d'Amore" by the company now performing at St. George's Hall, there would be nothing to notice in record of the closing days of the past year. At the establishment referred to "Il Barbier" and "Il Conte Ory" were repeated in alternation until Monday last, when Donizetti's opera was brought out for the first time there. This was a better choice than "Il Barbier," it having been much less frequently heard during recent years than Rossini's comic chef-d'œuvre. That "L'Elisir d'Amore" should have been so seldom performed of late is somewhat singular, since it is decidedly superior, as a musical work, to both "La Figlia del Reggimento" and "Don Pasquale." Indeed, the first-named opera may justly be held to be Donizetti's best production, considered as a complete work. There is more continuity, greater spontaneity, and freedom from effort throughout "L'Elisir" than are to be found in any other opera by the same composer. From the recent infrequency of its performance here it does not necessitate such comparisons as are unavoidable in association with "Il Barbier."

In Monday's cast the heroine was personated by Madame Danieli, of whom we have already spoken. This lady sang the music of Adina with much neatness and grace, and was applauded in several instances, especially in the opening cavatina and in the duets with Nemorino, Belcore, and Dulcamara. As the lover, Nemorino, Signor Rinaldini, of Her Majesty's Opera, sang with great effect. Several solo passages, in the duet with Adina, and in those with the other principal characters, were given with excellent style and phrasing; and his delivery of the romanza, "Una furtiva lagrima," was so good as thoroughly to deserve the great applause and the encore which it received, the other encore of the evening having been a portion of the duet for Nemorino and Belcore. Signor Topai (whose débüt we noticed last week) was dry and quaint, rather than humorous, in his representation of the quack Dulcamara. He sang and acted with much animation, and was particularly successful in the duet in which he gives Nemorino the elixir. Signor Mottino's agreeable baritone voice and his earnest manner gave due prominence, musical and dramatic, to the character of Sergeant Belcore. The excellence of the well-selected orchestra and the care and efficiency of the conductor, Signor Fiori, were again evidenced; and altogether the performance was one of the best yet given by this company.

The forty-first performance of "The Messiah" by the Sacred Harmonic Society, on Dec. 20, was repeated on Friday (yesterday) week, when the solo vocalists were Mesdames Sinec and Patey, Mr. W. H. Cummings, and Mr. Santley. Other features of the programme were as before.

"The Messiah" was also given at the Albert Hall on Christmas Eve and on the afternoon of Christmas Day—the solos by Mlle. Titien, Miss Marian Severn, Mr. W. H. Cummings, and Signor Agnesi. The oratorio was announced for repetition in the same locale on Thursday last, this being the earliest performance of the new year—the next announcement having been that of the commencement of the seventh season of the "London Ballad Concerts" at St. James's Hall this (Saturday) afternoon.

A selection from Mendelssohn's oratorio "St. Paul" is to be performed, as part of a religious service, in St. Paul's Cathedral, on Jan. 25, in celebration of the saint's day.

Endeavours are being made to increase the funds of the "Mendelssohn's scholarship foundation," which are at present inadequate to the effective continuance of the objects of the institution. To this end a circular has been issued by the committee, signed by the honorary secretaries, Mr. Otto Goldschmidt and Mr. Arthur Sullivan, the latter of whom was the first scholar elected here (in 1856) by the institution, which was originated, in memory of Mendelssohn, soon after his death, in 1847. Candidates—being natives of, or domiciled in, Great Britain or Ireland—are eligible for election between the ages of fourteen and twenty-four; and the scholarship lasts for one year, subject to renewal up to a period not exceeding four years. It is to be hoped that aid may be speedily forthcoming in furtherance of a design which is so well calculated to advance the best interests of musical art.

MUSICAL PUBLICATIONS.

Messrs. Chappell and Co. have recently published some pleasing pianoforte music, consisting of original pieces and transcriptions. Among the former the "Gavotte" of M. Silas is a good specimen of modern application of an antique form, the same composer's "Impromptu" being an agreeable combination of a melodious cantabile strain with brilliant executive passages.

That well-known pianist "de la première force," the Chevalier de Kontski, comes before us with a new "Ballade," which affords striking evidence of his productive power, being classed as op. 253. As implied by the title, its basis is a theme of simple, vocal character, and this is amplified and embellished in a manner to afford variety and contrast while still preserving the original character. This also is published by Messrs. Chappell and Co., as is likewise "Queen Mab," by A. Duvernoy, a fanciful piece in which the prevalence of triplet rhythm gives a character of airy lightness.

The publications of Messrs. Chappell coming under the class of transcriptions are M. Gounod's "Serenade," arranged by Mr. Kuhe; and the scherzo from Beethoven's second quartet and the minuet from the same composer's fifth quartet, both adapted by Mr. Berthold Tours. That these pianoforte transcriptions are skilfully made, the names of the adaptors sufficiently indicate.

"The Musical Monthly" (Messrs. Enoch and Sons) is a magazine of new copyright music, which commenced with the beginning of this year. Each number consists of two divisions—one of instrumental pieces, the other of vocal music. The work being edited by Sir Julius Benedict, and the price exceptionally small, even in these days of low prices, success ought to be certain. The number before us contains some pleasing pianoforte pieces by J. Duprat, Ignace Gibone, F. Thomé, J. B. Rongé, W. Macfarren, and R. de Vilbac; and six songs, of varied character, by H. Smart, J. B. Rongé, Franz Abt, Cesar Frank, R. Metzdorf, and Carl Chesneau.

Messrs. Duff and Stewart have recently brought out some vocal pieces which will be widely welcomed. "Dream of Angels, Little One," by Franz Abt, will sustain the reputation of that popular composer, both by the agreeable character of its melody and the well-contrasted nature of the accompaniment. M. Gounod's "Sotto un Capello Rosa" is a second "Biondina," in flowing barcarolle style that will find favour with singers and hearers. This is also published by Messrs. Duff and Stewart, as are four songs by Miss Virginia Gabriel—"The Passing Ship," "The Shadow on the Floor," "The Angel and the Child," and "My One True Love." Each of these is more or less in the sentimental style, and all possess that clearly defined melody and appropriate accompaniment that are characteristic of the productions of the same experienced hand.

"St. Patrick at Tara" is the title of a cantata by Professor Glover, of Dublin, published by Duncan Davison and Co. The work, which is dedicated to Prince Arthur, is composed on text—taken from Ossian, Moore, Clarence Mangan, &c.—illustrative of the introduction of Christianity into Ireland, in the fifth century. The music consists of thirty-one numbers, commencing with an overture and including recitatives, airs, choruses, chorales, and other concerted pieces. Some of these are written with much spirit, and there is a variety of character that will interest many, apart from the national spirit of the work.

Messrs. Cramer, Wood, and Co. have issued, in a very cheap form, a collection of fourteen "Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern." The musical variety here offered may be inferred from the fact of the music including specimens dating from the fourteenth century to the present day. The same publishers have also brought out a set of six "Carols and Hymns for Church and Home," the music to which has been effectively supplied by Mr. James F. Simpson.

Another seasonable work is "Little Christmas—a Village Legend," the music of which, for ladies' voices, is by M. Ferdinand Poise, the text by M. E. Dubreuil. This short cantata has been translated and adapted by Mr. W. C. Masters, and thus rendered available for home performance, for which it is well calculated, requiring but three principal vocalists and a few assisting choristers, by whom it may, with little effort, be effectively rendered.

Mr. Joseph Williams, of Berners-street, is increasing his already extensive catalogue by the publication of many pleasing works, both vocal and instrumental. Among those of the former class, Mr. Henry Smart's charming song, "River, gliding river," claims first mention. The melody is attractive, while yet being simple in character, and lies within moderate compass for a mezzo-soprano voice. The accompaniment, although easy of execution, has that stamp of the cultivated musician which may be impressed even on the most fugitive production. Mr. Blumenthal is so well known as a successful song composer that his name alone is now sufficient to recommend his productions, a favourable recent specimen whereof being that entitled "One Angel," the serious tone of the vocal portion of which is well relieved by the contrasted effects introduced into the accompaniment. This piece (which is likely to be much asked for) is published by Mr. Williams, to whom we are also indebted for a very expressive song by Mr. F. Clay, "The Reaper and the Flowers" (words by Longfellow); a pretty ballad, "Go, bird of summer," by Walter Maynard; and a bright and tuneful "Maiden's Flower-Song," by Ciro Pinsuti. Mr. J. L. Hatton's very pleasing song, "Voice of the Western Wind," will be remembered by those who have heard it finely sung by Mr. Santley, for whom it was expressly composed; and many will be glad to know that it has been published by Mr. Williams.

That prolific and successful composer of pianoforte pieces Mr. Brinley Richards has recently contributed several to the catalogue of the publisher just named. "Little Nell" is an effective transcription of the late Mr. George Linley's popular ballad. "Sweet Home" is a similar treatment, by the same hand, of Mr. Wrighton's ballad. M. Lefebure-Wely's "Offertoire" and the "Agens Dei" from Mozart's mass in F are effective versions, by Mr. Richards, of sacred pieces of the French and German schools. In his fantasia entitled "Faust" Mr. Harold Thomas has strung together in a brilliant and artistic manner some of the prominent themes of M. Gounod's opera; and in another piece has treated with equal skill and success some of the favourite subjects of Meyerbeer's "Les Huguenots." Mr. Horace Hill's "La Rose du Matin" is a clever "caprice brillant" in the scherzo style, well sustained and effectively varied. "Lenore Mazurka," by George Barnard, is an effective combination of the marked rhythm of the popular Polish dance with light and brilliant pianoforte passages. In his "Pensées Fantastiques pour le Piano" Mr. Barnard also shows his ability to write well for the display of the instrument. Both have the leading passages fingered, and their practice will improve the executive powers of the student. The five pieces last named are also published by Mr. Williams.

POST-OFFICE NOTICES.

Since the issue of the recent notice on mails for Constantinople, via Austria, information has been received from the Austrian Post Office that the departure from Vienna of the mails for Constantinople, via Czernowitz, Romen, and Bucharest, will be ten hours earlier than at present. Consequently, the supplementary mails for Constantinople, which have recently been made up in London on Monday mornings, for transmission by the Czernowitz route, will be henceforward discontinued, as they could not reach Vienna in time to be forwarded. The mails for Constantinople by this route will, therefore, be dispatched on the evening of every Saturday; those via Trieste will continue to be made up every Tuesday morning and evening.

Henceforward, the postage on letters posted in the United Kingdom addressed to Newfoundland, and whether conveyed by direct packet or via Halifax or by private ship, will be reduced to 3d. the half-ounce or fraction thereof, provided the postage be, in each case, prepaid. Unpaid or insufficiently paid letters will be liable, on delivery, to an additional charge of 3d. each, over and above the ordinary postage.

The following will be the dates of dispatch from London of mails to the Bahamas until May next:—Saturdays, Jan. 4 and 18, Feb. 1 and 15, March 1, 15, and 29, April 12 and 26, May 10 and 24. Supplementary mails will be forwarded on the evening of each succeeding Thursday, on the chance of their reaching New York in time for the Bahamas branch steamer. From Liverpool the mails will be dispatched on the same days as from London, and from Dublin on the following days.

The next mails for Australia will be dispatched from London as follows:—Via Southampton, on the morning of Thursday, Jan. 16; via Brindisi, on the evening of Friday, Jan. 24.

A house situated on the Strand, Youghal, in the county of Cork, fell, on Monday, causing the death of a woman and two girls. One child escaped by jumping out of window.

The new abbey erected for Benedictine nuns, just outside the town of Ramsgate, was opened to the public on Thursday week. The building, which is a handsome Gothic one, will cost between £15,000 and £16,000, and will not be completed for some time. About a dozen nuns are expected to inhabit a portion of it by April next. They will probably receive children of the highest classes to educate.

The distribution of prizes to the successful students at the Portsmouth School of Science and Art took place in the Green-room, on Monday evening, in the presence of a crowded audience. Ex-Mayor Alderman S. Baker presided, supported by Sir Arthur Helps, Mr. Stone, M.P., and members of the committee. After a preliminary statement by the Vicar of Portsmouth, chairman of committee, showing that the students had been very successful, Sir Arthur Helps addressed the meeting at some length.

CONFERENCE OF HEAD MASTERS.

The annual conference of Head Masters of First-Grade Schools was held at King Edward's School, Birmingham, on the 27th and 28th ult. The Rev. A. R. Vardy, Head Master of Birmingham, presided; and there were present the Head Masters of Abingdon, Barnsley, Bedford, Berkhamstead, Bishop Stortford, Blackheath, Bradford, Bradford, Brentwood, Bristol, Bromsgrove, Bury St. Edmunds, Canterbury, Cheltenham, Christ's Hospital, City of London, Clifton, Cowbridge, Cranbrook, Dublin High School, Durham, Epsom, Felsted, Giggleswick, Gloucester Cathedral School, Queen Elizabeth's College (Guernsey), Haileybury, Harrow, Highgate, Ipswich, King William's College (Isle of Man), King's College (London), Lancing, Liverpool College, Magdalen College School (Oxford), Malvern, Mill Hill, Monmouth, Norwich, Oscott, Oswestry, Reading, Repton, Richmond (Yorkshire), Rossall, Rugby, St. Columba's College (Dublin), Sherborne, Shrewsbury, Sutton Valence, Tonbridge, Uppingham, Wellington, Winchester, Wolverhampton, Worcester Cathedral School, and York. The Rev. C. Evans, late Head Master of King Edward's School, Birmingham, was also present; and letters regretting their inability to attend were received from the Head Masters of Charterhouse, Dulwich, Eastbourne, Eton, Merchant Taylors', Tiverton, and Westminster.

The following resolutions were carried:—1. "That section 1 of the Report of the Committee of Head Masters for 1872 be received and adopted." Carried by a large majority. (This section of the Report refers to the organisation of the Head-Masters' Conference.) 2. "That with reference to paragraphs 27—34 in the Report, dated Nov. 20, 1872, of the Cambridge Syndicate, appointed to consider the regulations for the previous and general examinations, this Conference, while gratefully recognising the readiness of the University to consider the wants of schoolmasters, adheres to its previous resolutions on the subject as embodied in the applications already made to the Universities." Carried by 22 to 16. (The previous resolutions here referred to suggest English with French or with German, as an alternative for Greek or for Latin in the University Previous Examination; the Cambridge Syndicate suggests French and German as an alternative for Greek, but not for Latin.) 3. "That a University system of examination is preferable to a Government examination for the higher schools." Carried unanimously. 4. "That this meeting, while thanking the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge for the steps already taken by them for the purpose of obtaining an efficient examination of first-grade schools, desires to bring before their notice the resolutions quoted below, and also to express its opinion that for the success of the proposed scheme it is necessary that certificates should be given carrying some definite University value, and highly desirable that the regular school examinations should be utilised."

Resolution passed at the Conference held at Highgate, December, 1871: "That the Universities be urged to accept the Senior Leaving Certificate either as a University Matriculation-Certificate, or in place of either the whole or part of the Responsions Examination at Oxford, and the Previous Examination at Cambridge."

Resolutions passed by the Head-Masters' Committee, June 6, 1872: 1. "That the proposed system of certificates is not a secondary part of the masters' wishes, but a principal one; and that they feel that it is essential to the success and usefulness of the movement that certificates should be given which should carry some definite University value." 2. "That they think it desirable that the regular examination in the school subjects should form a principal part of the examination for certificates; and that in literary or linguistic subjects no definite authors, or portions of authors, should be fixed by the University for preparation for the examination for certificates; and that, in regard to subjects, full freedom should be left to the schools within the limits suggested by the scheme of subjects given in the masters' first proposals." 3. "That the Committee think that a system of detailed arithmetical marking in the general inspection would indefinitely increase the time and labour of it, and so, practically, embarrass the scheme by its increased requirements in the way of 'examining power.'" 4. "That in fixing standards it is desirable, if not necessary, that the board should confer with schoolmasters." 5. "That the thanks of the meeting be given to the Latin professors for their syllabus of Latin pronunciation." Carried unanimously. 6. "That it is important to adopt some common action in the pronunciation of Latin." Carried unanimously. 7. "That the committee be requested to communicate with the Universities upon the adoption of a common pronunciation of Latin at the Universities as well as the schools." Carried unanimously. 8. "That the committee be again instructed to communicate further with college authorities on the question of combined examinations for college scholarships in the Universities." Carried unanimously. 9. "That the Committee be instructed to represent to the Universities the importance of taking some steps for the purpose of promoting the professional education of such of their students as intend to adopt the profession of teaching, and also to consider the possibility of instituting a course of preliminary training for upper-class schoolmasters in connection with schools themselves." Carried unanimously. 10. "That the committee be instructed to represent to the Government the desirability of introducing a bill providing for the registration of teachers as a necessary qualification for teaching." Carried by a large majority. 11. "That boys should not remain at school beyond the end of the school year in which they reach eighteen without the special permission of the Head Master." Carried by a small majority.

The Head Masters of Christ's Hospital, Shrewsbury, and Wellington, were elected to serve on the committee in the place of the Head Masters of Cheltenham, Eton, and Repton, who are the retiring members for this year. The remaining members are the Head Masters of the City of London School, Clifton College, Harrow, Sherborne, Uppingham, and Winchester.

It was resolved that the next Conference shall assemble at Winchester, on the invitation of the Rev. Dr. Riddings, the chairman of the committee, and that the first meeting shall be held on the evening of Monday, Dec. 22, 1873.

There is a provision in the new Pawnbroker's Act to make a pawnbroker liable for any damage done to a pledge while in his keeping. The new Act took effect on Tuesday.

An effort is to be made to unite into one confederation the various agricultural unions not yet affiliated to the national organisation, which has its head-quarters at Leamington.

Sir Barrington Simeon, Bart., was, on Saturday last, presented by his Isle of Wight tenants with a splendid silver claret-jug and salver, on the occasion of his marriage with the daughter of the Hon. Ralph Dutton.

The annual meeting of the Society for the Benefit of the Sons and Daughters of Ministers and Missionaries of the Free Church of Scotland was held in Edinburgh on Monday. It appeared that during 1872 the sum of £1671 had been distributed in 143 grants; and that during the fourteen years of its existence the society had voted grants to the amount of £16,500.

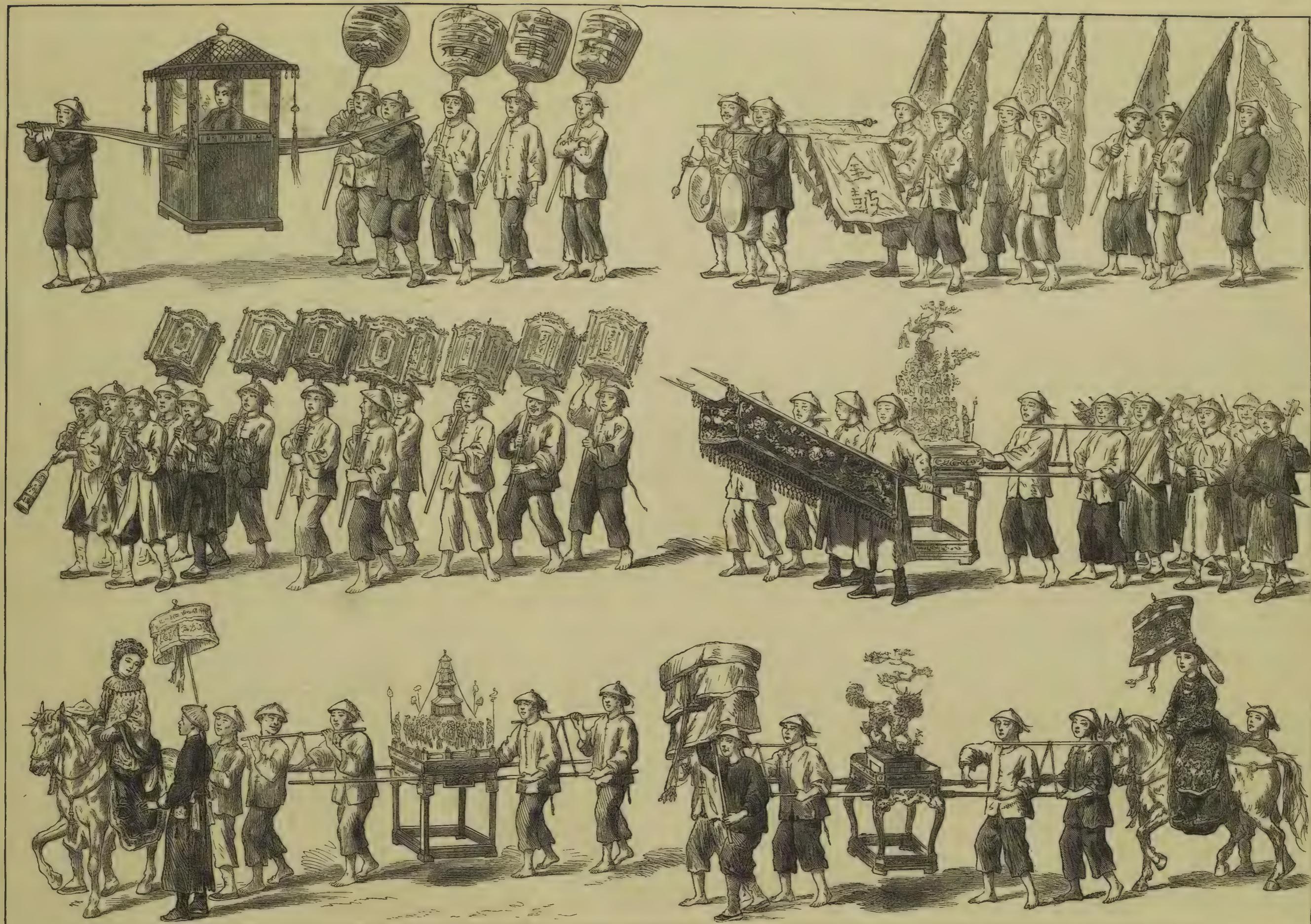
A CHINESE MARRIAGE PROCESSION.

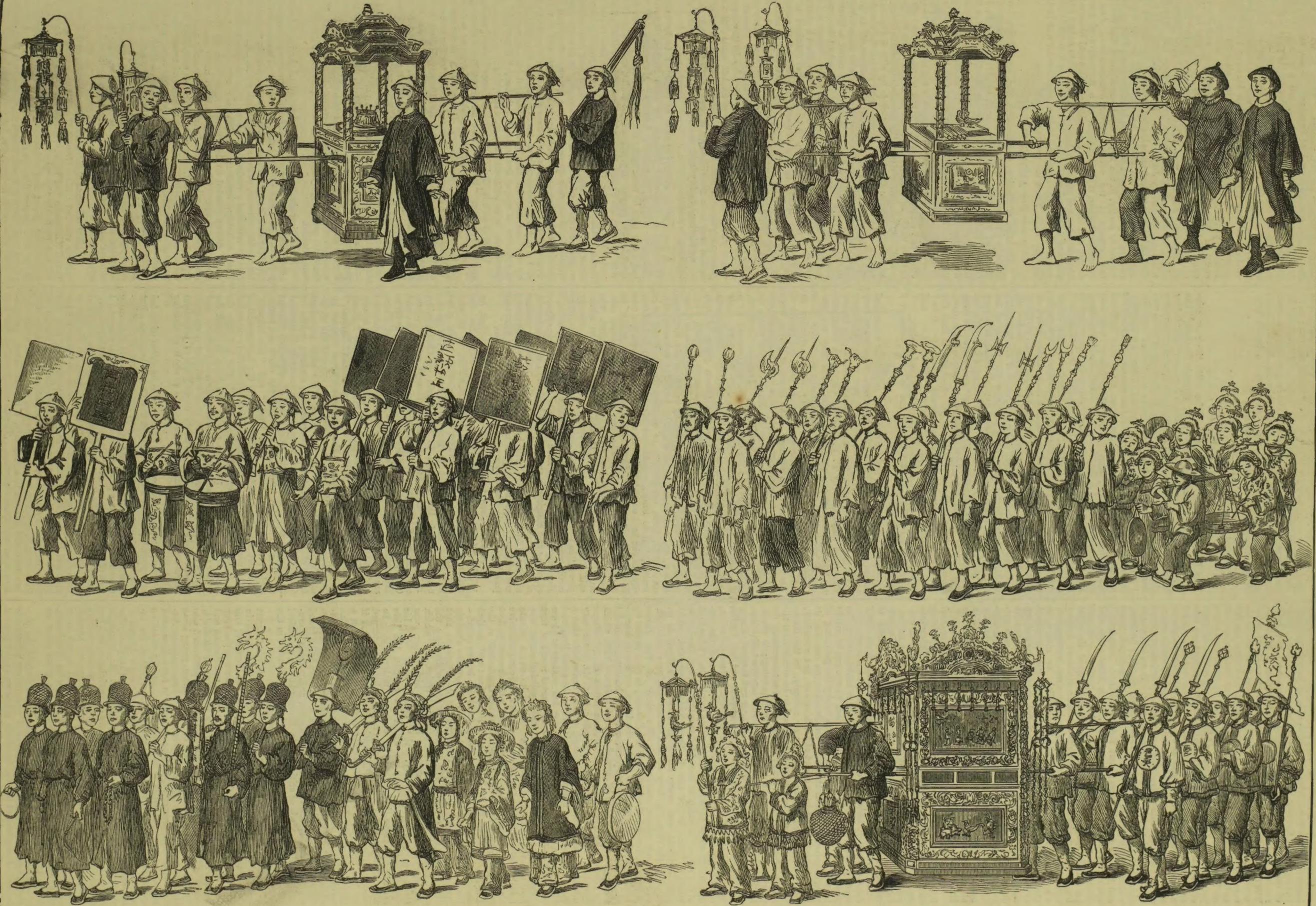
The long procession attending a Chinese bride, in her sedan-chair, to the hymeneal altar, followed by her parents or nearest kindred on horseback, and escorted by several bands of musicians, standard-bearers, and liveried servants carrying the pieces of ornamental furniture presented to her as marriage gifts, is copied from a pretty book of pictures, drawn in colours on rice-paper, by a Chinese artist. It may be compared with the illustrations we gave last week, from sketches, by our Special Artist at Pekin, of the processions and other ceremonial pomps that accompanied the young Emperor's marriage, on Oct. 16. The order of the procession was different, in some respects, on that more august occasion of the Imperial nuptials; and the colours worn, as likewise those of the banners, and the emblematic devices and mottoes, were peculiarly those of his Celestial Majesty's Court and household; but in its essential character, that grand wedding pageant resembled the ordinary manner of conducting a lady to her husband's residence, where the marriage ceremony is to be performed, as usual, in the presence of a festive party of their mutual friends. The bride, as she is depicted in the series of coloured drawings now before us, appears like a daughter of some family high in social rank, and surrounded with all the tokens of wealth and worldly importance. She is attired simply but richly, for this outdoor procession, in a mantle of dark blue or purple silk; her hair is gathered under a close cap; on her arms she has bracelets of jade. Her sedan chair, exactly like those which were used in Europe not long ago, is of the same colour with her own dress, and so are the liveries of the two bearers, who carry it along by the poles resting on their shoulders. The train of footmen behind, who carry, in the first place, huge paper lanterns decorated with figures in black and red, are dressed in loose crimson jackets, and each man has a red drooping feather in his white cap. Next come a pair of tambourine-beaters, and the flag-bearers, two and two, with four different pairs of banners. The first pair of banners, yellow, with a red fringe, hanging downwards from horizontal staves, are inscribed with the monogram *shih*, which is the symbol of happiness, and which is here doubled to signify the twofold bliss of the happy couple as man and wife. Beneath this monogram are recorded the names, titles, and parentage of the bride and bridegroom, so that all the bystanders may read them in passing through the street, which saves the trouble of a newspaper announcement, and the added clause of "No Cards." The decorations of the other flags and standards are not without a meaning suitable to the happy occasion. They express religious, moral, and philosophical sentiments, or kind auguries of connubial felicity for the persons about to marry. Trumpets and drums, guitars and fiddles, give out their stirring sounds to enliven the solemn march. The fourth division of this stately array is charged with the first of the wedding gifts, which seems to be an elaborate table-ornament, modelled as a miniature representation of a mountain, with pagodas and summer-houses amidst groves of trees, with a number of small figures of men and women, and with a peacock on the summit, the whole being designed for an image of heaven. The lady who rides on a white horse, with an umbrella held not far from her head, stops to exchange a word with the master of the ceremonies standing beside her palfrey. She may, perhaps, be the bride's mother; and the gentleman riding another white horse, in the next division, is probably the father; but we have no certain information on these points. Both are splendidly dressed, and attended with particular marks of respect. The bride's crown, which she is to wear at the actual marriage ceremony, is carried in a sort of shrine by the set of bearers who come next; and the officiating priest, in a black cassock, walks beside it with outspread hands, touching no unholy thing. The joss-sticks or tapers, which must be burned on the sacramental table, with the couple of little artificial birds and the green and red ribbons, which are requisite for the ceremony of marriage, follow the bridal coronet; and two assistant clergy, one fanning himself as he walks, have these articles in charge. Then come the large red tablets, inscribed with records of various particulars concerning the bride and her family, genealogies, titular and official distinctions, social connections, and all that can be supposed to enhance their respectability in the eyes of the world. A guard of javelin-men and halberdiers succeeds; afterwards come several different parties of men and women, boys and girls, who belong to the bride's family, with a number of domestic servants. Last of all is the portable closet, or, rather, cage, in which the bride will be conveyed from her dressing-room to the saloon where she has to take her part in the marriage ceremony. Previous to entering this, she will of course put off her simple blue mantle, and come out in the most gorgeous attire that taste, skill, and money can procure for such an occasion; in a blaze of embroidery, scarlet, black, and gold, and with a belt of ivory studded with jewels, but with a long veil of crimson silk to hide her face while she stands at the altar. The ceremony itself, with the festivities in the bridegroom's house, was described in a letter we published four years ago, with an illustration of the wedding of a Shanghai merchant's daughter. It consists of little more than making the prescribed assenting replies to the formal questions addressed by the priest to the bride and bridegroom, at a table where joss-sticks are burning before the picture of the god whom they worship. The bridegroom holds a green ribbon, the bride a red one, and these are knotted together, as a token of their matrimonial union.

According to the *Printer's Register*, there are published 112 daily newspapers, distributed as follows:—London, 14; Provinces, 64; Scotland, 11; Ireland, 20; Wales, 2; Channel Islands, 1.

The Revenue returns for the quarter, as well as for the year ending Dec. 31, were issued on Tuesday evening. The income during the past three months has been £17,451,362, a net increase of £627,265 upon that of the corresponding period in 1871. The year's receipts have amounted to £77,688,920, and this is more by nearly five millions and a half than the revenue of the preceding year. Customs have produced more by £515,000, excise by £2,086,000, stamps by £228,000, taxes by £21,000, property tax by £2,948,000, post-office by £170,000, and telegraph service by £220,000. Crown lands have fallen off by £10,000, and miscellaneous income by £698,000.

The national teachers held a congress at Dublin on Monday. It was an animated meeting. Mr. Vere Foster, who presided, recommended them to memorialise the Government to remove the present difficulty respecting the payment of the Parliamentary grant by not withholding the money which the teachers have justly earned on account of the refusal of the Roman Catholic managers to sign the new agreement proposed by the board. The meeting rejected the memorial as injurious at present. Resolutions respecting increase of salary, pensions, &c., were adopted. A proposition in favour of substituting the ordinary civil tribunal as the court of appeal, leaving the National Board an optional court of appeal, was also negatived, on a vote by ballot—the numbers being more than two to one.





A CHINESE MARRIAGE PROCESSION.—FROM DRAWINGS BY A NATIVE ARTIST.

MEMBERS OUT OF PARLIAMENT.

There was something almost paternal in the circumstance that at the moment when schools were remitting their pupils to the home circle, the Prince Minister and the Home Secretary should have given to the world elaborate treatises on education. Each of them was, so to speak, on his "native heath;" and both seemed to be inspired to appear worthy the place of his birth. The discourse of Mr. Gladstone, at Liverpool, was one of those which, to some minds, stand out in favourable contrast to his mere political speeches. If this utterance wanted a little of the fire and the passion which he generally imparts even into the briefest of his Parliamentary speeches—and none of them are more passionate and fiery than those which he pronounces, apropos of continued motions for adjournment of the House, between two and three in the morning—there was about it a breadth, almost a grandeur, and an earnestness to which Mr. Gladstone's power of language is always equal. His facility of speech, which sometimes leads him into redundancy and pleonasm in less prepared speeches, did not mar his deliverance now. True, his words came out in that rapid, continuous stream peculiar to him, which seems "that it would rush along a thousand years and flow as now it flows;" but they were more compacted; the sentences were terser than usual, while illustration and quotation were abundant, and yet not too profuse. In one part of the speech will be found a good specimen of the right honourable gentleman's withering, sarcastic mode of dealing with the argument of an adversary; and a modern freethinker, who has coolly taken on himself to demolish, or rather to abolish, all religious belief, may, perhaps, be a little astonished at being selected on a great educational occasion for a sharp castigation. Possibly, when Mr. Gladstone said "that he doubted whether posterity will rate us as high as we rate ourselves," he may have meant to give a party slap at the pseudo-distinguished professor of materialism in question. Some people, however, say that perhaps the Prime Minister may have in his mind the character and specialties of his Chancellor of the Exchequer.

One of the best-abused Ministers extant is Mr. Bruce, and it is not too much to say that opinion goes far towards holding that he has brought the administration of the Home Office into contempt. Those, however, who will take the trouble to consider the matter a little may come to a different notion. In the first place, the Secretary for the Home Department is, as compared with his colleague Secretaries of State, in a very disadvantageous position; inasmuch as every day—nay, every hour—he comes into contact, as it were, personally with the British people, as a whole or individually. No one can be run over by a cab in the street, no one can be bitten by a ferocious dog, no one can be annoyed by the gathering of brawling demagogues in the parks on Sundays, no one can be hanged or reprieved in any part of the kingdom, but, somehow, he refers himself, either mentally or actively, to the Home Secretary. That functionary is supposed to be omniscient, all-seeing, omnipresent, and always possessed of some remedy for every grievance, which he is niggardly in dispensing; in short, he is the object of incessant, pitiless, and minute criticism, and were less than a man were he not now and then what may be called bothered. Who, out of newspapers and set Parliamentary speeches, ever bothers the Foreign, Colonial, Indian, or War Secretaries? The difference is obvious, and the unfavourable result to the Home Secretary inevitable. Then look at the measures which he is obliged to carry through the Legislature! There is not one of them which does not affect class interests, and every clause of which is obliged to go through the burning fiery furnace of antagonism; and last, but by no means least, it is the duty of the Home Secretary, during the sitting of Parliament, to play leader up to the very last moment to which the House carries its discussions; and this is a nice preparation of the bodily and mental strength for the official labours of the next day. This, which is a mere skeleton of the multifarious duties of the Home Secretary, may tend to induce a feeling that Mr. Bruce may not be so bad as he is often painted. It is undeniable that a more hardworking, conscientious Minister does not live, and his, perhaps, chief fault is that he seems too anxious to please everybody—that is, "legion"—with the usual result of that policy. The basis on which Mr. Bruce's political career was laid was the subject of education. When he was a private member he took up that question in a broad and comprehensive sense, and so dealt with it, nationally and parliamentarily, that in due time he became Vice-President of the Committee of the Privy Council—that is, Minister of Education; and in that capacity made efforts towards—only towards, in the event—that system of national education which is now the absolute law of the land. It was, therefore, as no neophyte that Mr. Bruce dealt with this question when addressing the scholars of a school near his seat in Wales, in which he has a hereditary interest, because his father was there a pupil. Possibly, the chief point of his speech was the bold way in which he entered the lists against Mr. Lowe in regard to classical instruction. In fact, his right hon. friend was taken up, examined, and turned over until he became an apt illustration of an assertion that if he had not been a classical scholar he might not have been a Chancellor of the Exchequer. As Mr. Lowe has during this recess shown a partiality towards public exercitations, it is possible that he may ere long be talking to the country from somewhere, and it would not be surprising if he were to be found rejoining on his dear friend and colleague, and putting it crucially to the myriads of critics of Mr. Bruce whether a classical curriculum had not, in one instance at least, eventuated in the production of an inefficient Home Secretary.

Parliament having been prorogued on a Saturday in August last, on the following Monday Mr. Mundella was found in socio-political converse with his constituents at Sheffield, and now he seems likely to be one of the last, as he was the very first, to keep up continuity of palaver between one Session and another. He has again vouchsafed his presence to Sheffield, enacting the favourite part of prize-distributor (as performed also by Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bruce) to those whose young ideas have shot well. On the Education question this honourable gentleman is always prominent, and he appears to have discovered some plan—though what it is is not quite clear—by which he can reconcile his own idea of religion forming part of the instruction of children, without the raising of what is known as the religious difficulty; and this he expounded, though mysteriously, to his late audience at Sheffield. But Mr. Mundella has been, besides, extending his sphere of usefulness, and has suddenly started up as arbitrator between the working miners and masters in Wales. He seems to have comported himself with a certain grandeur, and delivered a powerful speech to an assemblage of miners, which, as many of them were Welshmen, they not understanding, it must have had a great effect on them.

It seems that the general constituency of Oxford has protested against the annual deliverances of its members being made in that atmosphere of mysticism which is known as the festival of the inexplicable "Druids" of that ancient city. So Mr. Cardwell and Mr. Vernon-Harcourt have been compelled to anticipate their speeches at the new-year's feast of the "peculiar

society," and have had to expound themselves to the uninitiated public. To say that Mr. Cardwell was Cardwellian is to give him the highest praise, for therein is contained an assertion "that his speech was redolent of plausibility, and gave evidence that if ever a Minister for War was respectable, here was he!" As to Mr. Harcourt, he, socio-political "chartered libertine" as he is, was forcible and epigrammatic and argumentative upon free beer and unlimited stimulus at all times and in all places; and, so to speak, he substituted a quart pot and a bottle for a Phrygian cap, as the emblems of liberty.

NEW BOOKS.

The Rev. W. Lucas Collins, M.A., who edits the now celebrated series of "Ancient Classics for English Readers," has once more shown, by that example which is proverbially better than precept, how the work issued under his general supervision should be done; and his *Aristophanes* (William Blackwood and Sons) is quite worthy of a place beside his "Iliad" and his "Odyssey;" that is to say, it is excellent. There is a masterly introduction, containing remarks which command immediate assent and elicit from the reader, time after time, internal ejaculations of "Hear, hear." Then there follows, with sufficient exposition and a liberal supply of illustrative translation, a panoramic view of all Aristophanes' plays that are extant in a perfect or almost perfect form, beginning with the "Knights" and ending with the "Plutus." The translations are either "taken, by permission, from the admirable version" due to the scholarship and ingenuity of the late Mr. Hookham Frere, or supplied by the editor himself from his own personal resources. Mr. Mitchell is mentioned with brief but frank and well-deserved commendation; and a few specimens of Mr. Mitchell's translations would not have detracted from the merits of the volume. The beauty of Aristophanes' lyrical effusions is very properly insisted upon; and no tasteful reader could have objected if to the instances quoted from the "Clouds" had been added from the "Birds" the wakening-song warbled by the hoopoo to his mate. There are those to whom it may appear incongruous that the personages of Aristophanes' dramas should swear by "Jove" and "Jupiter," and speak of "Mercury," "Proserpine," and "Neptune;" but this is a comparatively trivial matter, and interferes very little, if at all, with the full enjoyment of a charming little book.

"The heart that can feel for another," especially when that other is dead and gone, and unable to become a nuisance, may indulge its sympathetic genius, without fear of having to pay for it in purse or person, by means of the *Memoirs of Leonora Christina*, translated by F. E. Burnett (Henry S. King and Co.). The memoirs are autobiographical; but they are preceded by two prefaces, chiefly explanatory of points that seemed to require explanation, and by an introduction in which Leonora's personal character and the principal events of her life are described in outline. The memoirs proper were written by Leonora herself (of whom there is an engraved portrait) during her imprisonment in the Blue Tower (of which an engraved view is given) at Copenhagen. Leonora Christina, who was a daughter of King Christian IV. of Denmark by a morganatic marriage, was born on July 10, 1621 (new style), at the castle of Fredericksborg, twenty miles north of Copenhagen; she was married, at fifteen years of age, to Corfitz, first Count of Ulfeldt of the Roman Empire, who, after having filled the highest offices in the kingdom of Denmark, was falsely accused of intending to poison the King and Queen, and was acquitted of all guilt, but was subsequently, on July 24, 1663, condemned, in his absence, to death as a traitor, fled to Basle, and thence in a boat down the Rhine, died in the boat on Feb. 20, 1664, and was buried under a tree in an unknown spot. She, meanwhile, sought safety in England; but, having lived at a time when international conventions were unsatisfactory for political personages, was secretly given up by Charles II. and conducted to the aforesaid "blue tower," where she spent some two and twenty years "in the forced company—more cruel to her than solitary confinement—of male and female gaolers of the lowest order." Her only crime appears to have been the unpardonable offence of loving and clinging to an unworthy husband; and the record of her prison life, to say nothing of the touching preface addressed to her children, will be found intensely interesting and strangely fascinating by all who like to study the minutest possible details in connection with a miserable existence.

It was well done to publish *Essays on Eastern Questions*, by William Gifford Palgrave (Macmillan and Co.); for the author's evidence, if it be not quite infallible, is at any rate, and to no small extent, authoritative. He gives but scant encouragement to those who hope for the speedy conversion of the Moslem to the tenets of Christianity. It appears that there is a tendency amongst certain representatives of Islam to imitate Christian customs and Christian vices; but the Christian religion is, at present, as far as ever from finding a home in the midst of Mohammedanism. There are ten essays, of which the first, second, and third are devoted to "the portraiture of Mohammedanism, as it now exists among its followers throughout the greater part of the East-Turkish Empire;" the fourth, entitled "the Mohammedan 'Revival,'" is particularly interesting; the fifth gives some curious information about "the Turkomans and other tribes of the north-east Turkish frontier;" in the sixth "the most prevalent forms of Eastern Christianity are passed in review; while its 'Greek' or Byzantine modification is more minutely illustrated in the seventh;" the eighth gives a sort of corrective account of "the Abkhasian insurrection;" and the ninth and tenth, styled, respectively, "the poet 'Omar" and "the brigand, Ta'abbet Shurran," are intended to "supply the background of Arab life and vigour in the times which immediately preceded or followed the birth of Mohammedanism." Nor is it only for facts and suggestions that the reader will have to thank the writer; the literary style is of itself remarkably forcible and causes an agreeable sensation at the same time that it compels a respectful attention. No ordinary contributor of periodical literature could have said what there was to say in so striking a manner.

Most people who have any pretensions to be called educated can nowadays read and understand the French language; but English versions of French works are, nevertheless, of considerable service, because by means of them attention is frequently drawn to meritorious productions which would otherwise run a risk of escaping the notice of English readers. For this reason, then, if for no other, the hand of welcome should be stretched out, though the translator's name is withheld, to *Travels in Indo-China and the Chinese Empire*, by Louis de Carné (Chapman and Hall). It is curious, and as sad as curious, that this record of French travel, exploration, and enterprise should be overshadowed by a melancholy event, similar in one sense and diametrically opposite in another, to that which gave additional and mournful interest to a very late, if not the latest, publication of an analogous character. Then a son bewailed the loss of a father, for whose sake chiefly the task of authorship had been undertaken; now a father bewails the loss of a son to whom the composition of the book, brought out under the

paternal auspices, had been a solace and a delight to his dying hour. An affecting notice of the author's life and early promise is prefixed by his father, Count de Carné, to the volume. From it we learn that the young Louis de Carné, of ingenuous, noble, ardent nature, and of good physical constitution, fell a victim to disease, brought on by fatigue and privation during the gallant prosecution of a hazardous expedition, at the unripe age of twenty-seven. And, as if to intensify the bitterness of death, he received a summons, which there was no mistaking and no eluding, at that trying moment when his dear France was in extremest peril, and his brothers, in common with other Breton youths, "set off to defend their country." The story of his adventures, investigations, and sufferings has only to be read, and that he survived at all will be matter of astonishment. Louis de Carné, attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was nominated to "the Commission of Exploration of the Mekong," and joined the expedition, which left Saigon in June, 1866. His special duty was to present to his department an extended report of the results of the expedition; and what leisure he could find he employed in putting together papers which, it is understood, first appeared, wholly or partly, in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, and now form the contents of the volume under consideration. And that volume, whether it be regarded as a narrative of personal daring and endurance or a collection of notes and observations to be the basis of an official report, cannot fail to extort admiration and command confidence. We have done honour to Bellot; and well worthy of being his fellow-countryman was Louis de Carné. N.B. There are several illustrations.

AMONG THE MUSES.

Beauties of diction, versification, and description, looming through a somewhat nebulous atmosphere of imagination, are scattered over *Christine: a Phantasy*, by Arthur De D. Faber (Smith, Elder, and Co.). There is displayed, however, a rather too dogged determination of sticking to the promise implied in the explanatory portion of the title, if, at least, it be rightly supposed that a phantasy may be expected to be more than a little vague, misty, and, sooth to say, unintelligible. Hazy are the characters introduced; indistinct is the outline of the story told; and dialogue and monologue are of an indirect and discursive kind, as difficult to trace as is the orbit of Encke's comet, and reminding one of the eccentric individual who used to go from Temple Bar to Charing-cross by way of Paddington-green. The whole poem is tinged with melancholy and with the bitterness of one who knows the hollowness of human creeds, and who appears to think that there is something new in the discovery that a friend, unless you mean a Quaker, is merely a lexicographical expression, and might be properly included in a category of extinct animals. There is, as it seems, a dream within a dream, a phantasy within a phantasy; and, so far as any certain hold can be obtained of any certain clue, there is the following nucleus of a narrative. A bridegroom pillow'd beside his new-made bride has a fearful vision concerning her, and wakes up to find her dead. He—without waiting, apparently, for the inquest which should have been held—goes forth to seek a refuge for himself, and arrives in course of time at what we take to be Bedlam, into which we are astonished to find that he has some difficulty in gaining admittance, and from which we are still more astonished to find that he is allowed to go at large; and, after a great deal of wandering, bodily and mental, he is left dreaming and thinking in silence.

A good, solid, satisfying dish of poetry is to be found in *Hannibal, a Historical Drama*, by John Nichol, B.A. Oxon. (Glasgow: James Maclehose; London: Macmillan and Co.); but a fear may be reasonably felt lest it should prove too strong meat for the present day, when light trifles, cooked up French-wise or from the French, are most affected by ordinary readers, and when the more robust literary appetites feed rather upon the scientific and the purely historic than upon the historic-dramatic. But, though the profane vulgar may turn aside from so honest a piece of work as a learned play in five acts, each of which is decorously preceded by a prim "argument" and bristles with Roman and Carthaginian names and is studded with classical allusions and abounds with speeches not unworthy of Livy, yet in the groves of Academe and in the cloisters hard by the Cam and the Isis, and in kindred haunts, and even in the studies of sparse and isolated scholars, "Hannibal" will, doubtless, be as welcome as flowers in spring.

What is said in Ovid's "Metamorphoses" about seeing and approving of the "better" and all the while following the "worse" is not altogether inapplicable to *Lyrics of a Lifetime*, by Samuel Smith, Woodberry Down, with illustrations by William Henry Prior (Chapman and Hall); for the author, who evidently has a great admiration for Homer, Milton, and the grander poets, and yearns to join their glorious choir, appears to be irresistibly held down by his "demon," so that he can at his highest achieve nothing more lofty than a prettyish song or a pretentious hymn. Imitation and parody are his chief delight; his skill is displayed in that constant iteration of a single rhyme with which old monkish versifiers kept down their animal spirits and prepared a cross to be borne by educated posterity; and in point of puns he condescends to the level of the modern burlesque-writer. The salt which seasons the mass, amongst which are some oases of prose, is a spirit of philanthropy, geniality, playfulness, and genuine love of sheer versification.

Something similar to the effect produced during a summer's afternoon by the drowsy hum of bees is experienced on perusing a few score lines of *Deighton Farm*, by Thomas Bradfield (Hodder and Stoughton), so soothing is the manner, but so monotonous the cadence, of the smooth blank verse. A simple tale of love is unfolded; various and even painful, but at the same time ordinary, incidents of life are introduced; and the effect above alluded to is somewhat modified by the use of strong language. Of course there is no more reason why a story should not be narrated, and very prettily narrated, in separate and accented lines of ten syllables each than in a consecutive series of syllabically unmeasured and unaccented lines; but, as Mr. Chucks, the celebrated boatswain, would have observed, "allow us to hint in the most delicate way in the world" that the adoption of the former in preference to the latter method, when no particular flight of fancy or original conception or brilliancy of colouring or even manipulation of language sufficiently explains the choice, is liable to be considered as a mere contrivance for bringing about a specious appearance.

Original effusions and translations are comprised in the little volume entitled *Urban Grandier, and Other Poems*, by Louis Brand (Chapman and Hall). Among the former is a very painful but perfectly "proper" tale of the love that should not be between priest and abbess and maiden of the world; and it is told powerfully, passionately, pathetically. In other pieces, too, there is at one time a sparkle of fire, and at another a soft shadow of melancholy. Among the translations those that are from Horace are not improvements upon what have already been published; and it is shocking to find, amidst that which should be most correct composition, such an ex-

pression as "let thou and I now sing by turns" (p. 72). What would the writer think of "down among the dead men let he lie?"

Mighty quaint and picturesque and fancy-bred and musical as the notes of the sweetest bird that warbles are some of the Poems, by Samuel Kennedy Cowan (Smith, Elder, and Co.). It may be said that nearly all the author's muse has charms, "except that horrid one beginning with" the frightful confession "I stabbed her when the sun was red;" and even that atrociously blood-thirsty dirge has something grimly fascinating about it.

The praise of friends was less injudicious when it led to the publication of *Walled In, and Other Poems*, by Henry J. Bulkeley (Henry S. King and Co.), than it usually is. Intensity of feeling, a rugged pathos, robustness of tone, and a down-rightness of expression that does not shrink from even slang, if it seem best fitted for his purpose, are, one would say, the author's chief characteristics. They do not, however, exclude tenderness on occasion, as "The Hat Band" will testify; or free, flowing, graceful verse, as many a page will give ample proof. That there is any clear evidence of large imaginative resources cannot be so confidently affirmed.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

LORD STOURTON.

The Right Hon. Charles, eighteenth Lord Stourton, died, on



the 23rd ult., at his seat near Knaresborough. His Lordship was born, July 13, 1802, the eldest son of William, seventeenth Lord Stourton, by Catherine, his wife, sister of his Eminence Cardinal Weld, of Lulworth Castle, in the county of Dorset, and he succeeded to the family honours at the death of his father, in 1846. He

married, Aug. 1, 1825, Mary Lucy, daughter of Charles, sixth Lord Clifford, of Chudleigh, and had six sons, the eldest surviving of whom, Alfred Joseph, is now nineteenth Lord Stourton, born Feb. 28, 1829, who married, Sept. 18, 1865, Mary Margaret, only child of the late M. E. Corbally, Esq., M.P., of Corbalton Hall, in the county of Meath, and has issue. The Stourtons, whose surname is derived from the town of Stourton, Wilts, are one of those Roman Catholic houses that can show an uninterrupted line of descent from a period antecedent to the Norman Conquest. As one of the heirs-general of the Howards, Dukes of Norfolk, Lord Stourton was senior coheiress of the baronies of Mowbray, Howard, Furnival, Strange, Braose of Gower, Maltravers, Segrave, Howard of Castle Rising, and FitzAlan.

LORD HUNTINGTOWER.

The Hon. William Lionel Felix, Lord Huntingtower, died, on the 21st ult., at Alexander House, Alexander-road, Kilburn. He was the only son and heir-apparent of Lionel William John, present Earl of Dysart, by Maria Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of Sweeney Toone, Esq., of Keston Lodge, Kent. His Lordship was born in 1820, and was educated at Eton. He married, in 1841, Katharine Elizabeth Camilla, daughter of the late Sir Joseph Burke, Bart., of Glinsk, in the county of Galway, and leaves, with other issue, a son, William John Manners, now Lord Huntingtower, and heir-apparent of the earldom of Dysart.

DEAN RAMSAY.

The Very Rev. Edward Bannerman Ramsay, LL.D., F.R.S.E., Dean of Edinburgh, who died on the 26th ult., was a very distinguished and conspicuous member of the Reformed Episcopal Church in Scotland. He was born on Jan. 31, 1793, the fourth son of Alexander Burnet, Esq. (second son of Ley), who assumed the surname of Ramsay on succeeding to the estates of his maternal ancestors, the Ramsays of Balmain, in the county of Kincardine, and was created a Baronet in 1806. The Dean's mother was Elizabeth, daughter and coheiress of Sir Alexander Bannerman, Bart. In 1815 Ramsay graduated at St. John's College, Cambridge; in 1830 he was appointed minister of St. John's, Edinburgh; in 1841 became Dean of the diocese; and in 1859 was granted the degree of LL.D. The Dean's principal works were "A Memoir of Sir J. E. Smith," "A Memoir of Dr. Chalmers," "Advent Sermons," "Diversities of Christian Character," and his very popular "Reminiscences of Scottish Life and Character." He married Miss Isabella Cochrane, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, which lady is deceased. We shall give a portrait of Dean Ramsay next week.

MR. KINGSMILL, OF HERMITAGE PARK.

Nugent Thomas Kingsmill, Esq., of Hermitage Park, in the county of Dublin, and Correndoo, in the county of Galway, died, in Merrion-square, Dublin, on the 22nd ult. This accomplished gentleman, well known in musical circles as a brilliant amateur performer, was second surviving son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel James Fitzgerald Kenney, of Kilclogher, in the county of Galway, J.P., and of Merrion-square, Dublin, by Jane Olivia, his wife, only sister of Anthony Francis, present Earl of Westmeath, and was cousin-german of the gallant Chevalier Lionel de Kenney, leader of the French at the capture of Ning-Po, whose death we recorded in 1862. Mr. Nugent Kenney married, June 22, 1865, Isabel Augusta Bruce, only surviving child of Colonel Sir John Kingsmill, Commander of the Battle-Axe Guards of the Castle of Dublin, and heiress, through her mother, of the Kingsmills of Sydmonton, Hants. In consequence of this alliance, Mr. Nugent Kenney assumed, by Royal license, Jan. 29, 1866, the name and arms of Kingsmill. He leaves an only son, Julian de Kenne Claude Bruce, born May 11, 1866.

MR. ARCHIBALD SMITH.

The death of Mr. Archibald Smith, LL.D., F.R.S., barrister-at-law, on the 26th ult., is recorded. Mr. Smith, who was born in 1814, devoted his leisure to mathematical studies, and his contributions to science were of high value. Upon the recommendation of a joint committee of the Royal Society he was employed by the Government to execute a magnetic survey of the Antarctic regions. In connection with these inquiries he made a series of researches relative to compass deviations, which were published in 1862, under the title of the "Admiralty Manual for the Deviations of the Compass," which was republished and translated into various languages. As a recognition of his scientific labours, Mr. Smith received from the Royal Society one of its gold medals, and from the Emperor of Russia a compass set with diamonds. Her Majesty's Government still more recently requested his acceptance of a gift of £2000, not as a reward, but as a mark of their appreciation of the value of his researches and of the influence they were exercising on the maritime interests of England and of the world at large.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

•• All communications relating to this department of the Paper should be addressed "To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS," &c., and have the word "Chess" legibly written on the outside of the envelope.

M. P., S. D. E., W. B., and Others.—Mr. Kidson's Problem, No. 1504, can be solved, we fear, by—R takes B, and I. Q to K 7th, as well as by the author's own key.

PONTO, VON ARMFIELD, M.R., Euclid.—See notice regarding Problem No. 1501 in our Number for Dec. 14.

RACHEL.—We cannot undertake to reply to letters the same week they are received, as this portion of the Paper goes to press very early.

C. W. E., Romsey.—Many thanks for the copy of the game. Will you be kind enough to refer to the original and see whether White's 30th move is there given as Q R to K B 3rd, or R to K B 3rd?

W. N., East Dereham.—The move suggested in the Cunningham Gambit is of course well known, as every possible variation in an opening so thoroughly analysed must be. It is not a good move; and, so far from frustrating the counter-attack, materially assists it. You are deceived in supposing there is a new edition of the work mentioned. That book was stereotyped a quarter of a century ago, and has never been altered since. The giving a new titlepage to an old book is a bookselling device, and a very unworthy one.

J. V. HOWARD TAYLOR.—It shall have due attention.

W. H. RAMSANT.—About the year 1834-5. We cannot at the moment recollect where you can find it, but if you will endeavour to do so.

S. Y. R.—The words are exceedingly good. You want, however, the geometrical and arithmetical results.

I. de S.—They shall have immediate attention.

W. H. A., Plymouth.—We cannot see how the second player is to win by the move you suggest, because if his opponent simply takes off the Bishop with his Queen he remains with equal pieces and a Pawn more.

H. MULLIER, Bradford.—You are quite wrong. White would have a Queen for a Rook and Bishop, and on the very next move, by playing his Queen to K 8 4th, would obtain an irresistible advantage.

T. M. and C. B., Gray's Inn.—Your best course is to become members of the St. George's Chess Club. You will there enjoy good chess and the society of gentlemen—two things which do not invariably go together. For particulars apply to Mr. Hampton, the hon. secretary, 29, King-street, St. James's. We have no room to give them.

THE CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF THE "MULTUM IN PARVO" PROBLEM have been received from

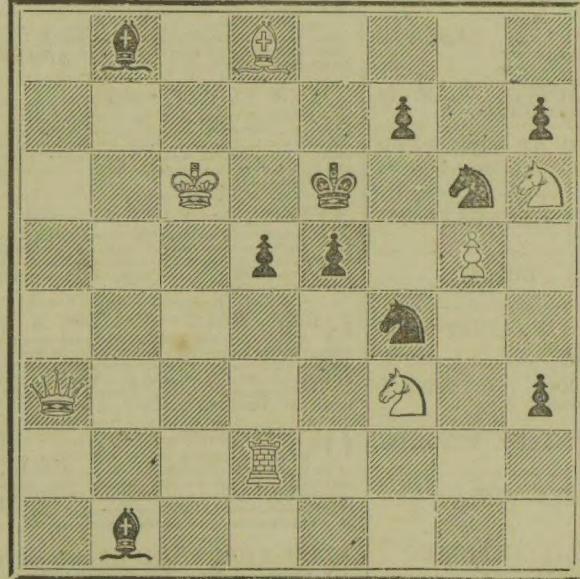
K. H. K., R. E., E. D., E. by Bridge-Ebony—A. S. Palmer—C. T. Daisley—Wilson Moore—G. O'Riley—H. Kent—E. G. C.—M. Komarovsky—John White—S. T. N. of Faversham—E. H. C. M. McNamee—Smith—D. D. I. T. Y. Young—Dr. Passauer—W. H. Gunston—H. Frau and E. Frau of Lyons—G. M. G. C.—Walter E. Ernest—Peregrine J. F., Nottingham—P. E. R.—Pip—John G. Kinahan—Samuel W. Walton Marshall—Query—W. A. Alry—Campden—R. E. W.—S. K. Morecup—John Trimmer—Eldon—M. D.—Vanguard—Charles—Bo and Cox—Try again—W. S. P.—Jessamy—S. B. Dido—H. L. E.—L. C. D.—Peterkin—Jack Brag—Ferdinand and Miranda—Sarah—Camp—Simple Sam—H. F.—Bath and Bristol—Peano—Willy—Sandwich—J. Watkinson, Huddersfield—Major F.—D. C. L.—R. A.—Minstrel—Boy—Pegotty—Dugald—Manfred and Man Friday—Sigismund—E. D.—H. B.—Lennox—Banshee.

* The answers to a very large number of communications are unavoidably deferred this week from want of space.

PROBLEM NO. 1506.

By Mr. F. HEALEY.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and give mate in four moves.

CHESS AT NOTTINGHAM.

Subjoined is one of the best Games played at the recent Chess Soirée of the Nottingham Chess Clubs.—(Irregular Opening.)

WHITE (Mr. Hamel), BLACK (Mr. Nottingham), DRURY, Lincoln.

1. P to K 4th P to Q 4th

2. P takes P Q takes P

3. Kt to Q B 3rd Q to Q sq

4. B to Q B 4th Kt to K B 3rd

5. P to Q 3rd P to K 3rd

6. Kt to K B 3rd P to K R 3rd

The opening on Black's side is not commendable. He loses time in frivolous moves, instead of massing his chief forces on the field.

7. B to K B 4th P to Q B 3rd

8. Castles Q Kt to Q 2nd

9. R to K sq P to K 4th

10. B to K Kt 3rd Kt to Q Kt 3rd

11. B to Q Kt 3rd Kt to Q 4th

12. Kt to K 4th Kt to K B 5th

13. Q to Q 2nd K Kt to K R 4th

14. Q to Q 3rd

This attack is premature, and subjects White to a deal of needless trouble.

14. B to K Kt 2nd

15. Q to Q B 5th P to Q Kt 3rd

He sacrificed the Q. B's Pawn designedly, no doubt, to render the extirpation of his adversary's Queen more difficult.

16. Q takes P (ch) B to Q 2nd

17. Q to Q B 4th Castles

18. P to Q 4th R to Q B sq

19. Q to K 4th P to Q R 4th

20. Q to Q 2nd

The Queen escapes; but the penalty for her rash exploit is a severe one—the loss of an important officer.

21. Kt takes B R takes Q B P

22. R to Q 7th (ch) R to Q B 2nd

23. R takes R (ch) Q takes R

24. Kt to Q 6th Kt to K 4th

25. Kt to Q 6th P to K B 4th

26. P takes B B to Q B 3rd (ch)

27. K to B sq P takes B

28. Q takes K R P R to Q B 2nd

29. Q takes P (ch) K to Kt 2nd

The latter moves of Mr. Drury are a great improvement on his earlier play in this game.

30. Q R P takes P B to K 5th

Here Black lost a fine opportunity. His proper play was Kt to K Kt 4th. For example:—

31. Kt takes P (ch) K to R sq

32. Q to Q 6th (ch) would be met by R to K 2nd effectively.

33. Kt takes Q (best) B to K 6th

and Black should win.

34. Kt to K 4th Kt to K 4th

35. Kt takes P (ch) K to R sq

36. Q to R 6th (ch) Kt to K 2nd

37. Kt to K R 4th R to B 2nd

38. P to K 6th Resigns.

TIME LIMIT IN MATCHES.

To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

Sir,—In case of any time limit being prescribed in chess matches, it seems that a differential one would be more generally acceptable than that commonly adopted.

As between ordinary players, perhaps there is no reason why one player should be longer over his moves, in the aggregate, than his adversary, by more than half an hour in each game; or that, in important matches, and, perhaps, in consultation games, that difference should be greater than three quarters of an hour, or, at the outside, an hour.

If this should be conceded, at first starting, the sand in an hour-glass, for the half-hour differential limit, would be equally divided, and its frame marked at each end, as in the supposed case of a match between Messrs. Thorold and Skipworth, "Thorold to play" and "Skipworth to play," the name of the player bound to move always remaining upwards, and the glass being turned by each player after moving.

The differential limit of time might, of course, be applied either to the whole game or to any specific number of moves on each side*. But, whatever the application, the running out of the sand would give such timely warning to mend pace as is often needed, without disturbing the slower player with misgivings, often groundless, as to whether he may be able to get over his last few moves within the stipulated time for playing them.

By using two hour-glasses, lashed together after proper apportionment of their contents, any differential limit not exceeding one hour might be provided for.—Yours faithfully,

Dec. 7, 1872.—27, Park-street, Bath. A. G. GOODWIN, Major-Gen.

* In this latter case glasses ready prepared must be in reserve.

MATCH BETWEEN THE CAMBRIDGE STAUNTON CHESS CLUB AND THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY CHESS CLUB.—The contest between these clubs has this time ended in an easy victory for Cambridge, the score at the finish being—Cambridge, 4; Oxford, 1.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will and codicil of Algernon Perkins, of Hanworth Park, were proved, on the 28th ult., by Raymond South Paley and John Bagot Scriven, the executors; the personal estate, including leaseholds, being sworn under £250,000. The testator has left to his wife, Sophia Clementina, all the household furniture and effects at his residences, 81, Harley-street, and 26, Waterloo-crescent, Dover, and all his plate and horses and carriages, wherever they may be, his said residence, 26, Waterloo-crescent, and two pecuniary legacies amounting to £3500; to Frederick Keen, gamekeeper at Hanworth Park, £800; and to George Keen, the under-gamekeeper, William Sealey, lodge-keeper, and Eliza Sauby, the housekeeper at Hanworth Park, legacies of £250 each. The testator gives to his trustees a sum of £100,000, part of an account called the "note account," belonging to him in the firm of Barclay, Perkins, and Co., brewers, upon trust, to pay thereout £3000 per annum to his wife, £100 per annum to the widow of his cousin John Perkins, M.D., and £50 per annum to his cousin William Henry Perkins; and subject thereto he gives the said sum of £100,000, and also all the Reduced Three per Cent stock and New Three per Cent stock belonging to him as to two thirds equally between his two sisters Mrs. Sophia Paley and Mrs. Bagot, and the remaining one third to the children of his late sister Mrs. Selina Scriven. The testator's share in the business of Barclay, Perkins, and Co., together with all his capital therein, he gives to his two nephews, the said Raymond South Paley and John Bagot Scriven, in moieties, and he also appoints them residuary legatees.

The will of Margaret Randalina, Baroness Trimleston, of Trimleston Castle, Meath, was proved, on the 17th ult., by her husband, Lord Trimleston, and her sister, the Dowager Baroness Louth, under £9000. Subject to some pecuniary legacies and specific bequests of jewellery to members of testatrix's family, she gives all her property to her daughter, the Hon. Anna Maria Louisa Elliott.

The will of William Hankey, Esq., formerly of Middleton Hall, Linlithgowshire, but late of Warley Lodge, Brentwood, Essex, was proved, on the 23rd ult., by Henry Aitchison Hankey, Blake Alexander Hankey, Rudolph Alexander Hankey, and Beaumont Hankey, the executors, to each of whom the testator has given a legacy of £500 for their trouble as such. The personal estate is sworn under £80,000. The testator bequeaths to his present wife, Cecile Charlotte Trelawny Hankey, £2000; to his sons William Henry Hankey and Frank George Hankey, £5000 each; and to the trustees of the marriage settlement of his daughter, Mrs. Mary Fanny Ellen

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